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Champion
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Mum who beat brain tumour starts community market

Find out what happened on a spirit hunt at former Civic Hall

Mary Twiss celebrating her 101st Birthday

Happiness is key, says 101 year old Mary!

FAMILY and friends recently joined Mary Twiss to help her celebrate turning an incredible 101 years old!

Mary's friends, family and fellow care home residents marked the special occasion at a surprise party in her honour at Stocks Hall Residential Home in Ormskirk.

Originally from Liverpool, Mary worked as a seamstress and has three children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Among the guests who joined her for her special day was daughter Jeanie who flew over from Australia for the occasion.

Mary blew out her birthday candles to the applause of her guests – and shared her recipe for a long life.

"Always be happy and spend time with those you love - and a glass of sherry helps too!"

YOUTH LOCKED UP OVER PARK 'GUN' THREAT

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A YOUTH who threatened another young man with a realistic-looking gun in a skateboard park has been put behind bars for nine months

A court heard that the incident happened in Coronation Park in Ormskirk on the afternoon of March 30 this year and the 18-year-old victim, Michael Kime was left shaken by the incident.

The culprit Jake Addison denied being at the park but when CCTV footage was examined it showed that he was there.

After he was sentenced to an immediate term of detention on Monday, September 19, his mum and other relatives and friends in the public gallery left the court in tears and shouting their disbelief.

Graham Pickavance, prosecuting, said that while Mr Kime was at the park a friend he was with, Kate Jones, received a phone call from Addison saying he had a gun and was coming to the skateboard park "to have Mike."

Jake Addison

"Shortly afterwards the defendant and another male approached and Mr Kime walked away. But the defendant changed direction and followed him. He went up to Michael Kime and pointed a black handgun at him.

"He said to him, "If I see you again I am going to cap you." He then walked away," said Mr Pickavance. Just after midnight police went to Addison's home in Skelmersdale to arrest him and found on his bed a Webley replica gun. His mobile phone was examined and on it was a video of him talking about cleaning the gun and saying he thought it was real and was going to sell it for £600.

18-year-old Addison, of Durham Street, Skelmersdale, pleaded guilty at Liverpool Crown Court to possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Michael Hagerty, defending, said that Addison has no previous convictions and is genuinely remorseful.

He has considerable problems including ADHD, anorexia, learning difficulties, autism and genetic kidney problems means he will ultimately need a transplant.

"He finds it difficult to understand the world in the way others do and would not have been able to consider the consequences of having the gun," said Mr Hagerty.

Man rescued after falling into river

A MAN had to be rescued after slipping and falling into the River Douglas at Hesketh Bank.

Police, fire crews, ambulance crews and the North West Air Ambulance were called after a member of the public spotted the man, in distress and shouting for help, at around 11am on Saturday, September 17.

He was rescued by the fire service team and taken to Royal Preston Hospital.

It is believed that he had slipped and fallen in near to Guide Road and had been in the water for some time before being spotted.

Hospital to host Baby Day

ORMSKIRK Hospital staff are hosting a Baby Day this Saturday, September 24.

Members of the Clinical Research Network are hosting the event from 10am-1pm which will feature a charity fair, a cake sale, tours around the antenatal and delivery suites and a special competition weighing newborn...teddies!

The event is being held in partnership with the NCT, a parental support charity which offers impartial information so that they can decide what's best for their family and creates groups of local parents to gain practical and emotional support.

Research nurse sister Naomi Robinson said: "This is an opportunity for Ormskirk Hospital's Antenatal/Maternity suite to showcase their services, raise its profile and raise funds!"

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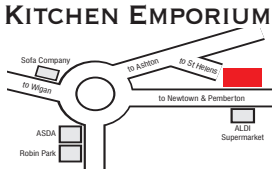

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Solar panels prove a money-saver for council and tenants

WEST Lancs Council chiefs say the authority and a large number of its tenants are "reaping the benefits" of solar panels installed on their homes.

Work on a project to install panels on 588 council properties in different parts of the borough began in January 2015 and was completed in January this year.

The council believe the environmentally-friendly technology could potentially save tenants an average of between £100 and £200 on their annual electricity bills.

Many are said to be delighted with the results and some are saving even more, the council has said.

In a survey by the authority council one resident said: "I am extremely satisfied with the solar panels as they have reduced my electricity direct debit by £24 per month."

Another commented: "Glad to save money and help the fragile world in any small way possible."

Meanwhile others also said the panels were helping with bills.

The solar panels work by generating electricity during daylight hours which can be used by the tenant with no charge from the council. The council has said this significantly reduces the amount of electricity tenants consume from the National Grid, and reduces energy bills.

Councillor Jenny Patterson

As a whole the project has already generated enough power to fuel 364 homes for an entire year, based on average use according to Ofgem, the government regulator for the electricity and downstream natural gas markets in Great Britain.

Value for money

The scheme was carried out under the government's Feed-in Tariff scheme, which pays the council for the electricity the solar panel systems generate, regardless of whether it is used in the tenants' homes or not.

Over time, this income will pay back the £1.928m capital cost of installing the panels and provide a return on investment to support council services in future years. The authority has already received in excess of just over £100,000 through the scheme.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, cabinet member for housing and landlord services, said: "This scheme is already proving to be excellent value for money for tenants and the council.

"As well as helping the tenants financially, the solar panels are generating income for the authority and will continue to do so for many years to come.

"The scheme also fits in with the Council Plan and our priority to work with communities and partners to protect and improve our environment.

"We had hoped to help an even larger number of tenants through this scheme, but unfortunately we could only install solar panels in 588 homes before the Feed-in Tariff was reduced by central government and then the initiative became uneconomic for the council. We are sorry we could not do more, but the scheme had to be financially viable for the council."

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Mum who beat deadly brain tumour launches new community market

A WOMAN who underwent life-saving surgery to remove a brain tumour has celebrated "coming out of the other side" by setting up a family business and aims to launch a new monthly market in Ormskirk next month.

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Mum Lynsey Blane was diagnosed with the tumour in 2014 - having initially been told she might have depression!

Her GP raised concerns and scans revealed that Lynsey had a 5cm brain tumour, which had taken over her pituitary gland and spread around her optic nerves and carotid artery – the biggest blood vessel in the brain, neck and face.

She was given only a 50-50 chance of keeping her sight and warned she could die if she suffered a stoke during surgery.

In December 2014 she underwent a complicated nine-hour operation to remove the tumour at the Walton Centre in Liverpool. That left her with a 22cm hairline scar from her forehead to her right ear and although they removed most of the tumour, she will have to have annual scans to check that what was left behind is not growing.

Lynsey used to run the Little Learners Nursery in Haskayne but was forced to close it when she became ill. However she was determined to start afresh and this month the couple launched a personalised wooden gifts and homeware business, appropriately called We Made It.

Now they plan to launch a new monthly market at The Civic in Southport Road, Ormskirk from 4.30 to 6.30pm on the first Thursday of each month, starting on October 6, to run alongside the town's traditional weekly market.

Ten businesses have already signed up to take part, selling cakes, fruit and veg, jewellery, flowers, party supplies, sweets, cards and stationery, candles, homeware and vintage goods.

Lynsey told the Champion: "The operation was successful and they saved my sight.

"They also left a 'door' in my skull in case access is needed again but the last MRI scans showed no growth.

"I was left with severe nerve damage though and the pain is often unbearable so I'll be dependent on steroid and pain-management medication for the rest of my life.

"We are starting the market to give small local businesses a chance to showcase their products each month."

Haskayne mum Lynsey with Sean (left) and Finley with some of the items for her new business venture.

Council to challenge Parrs Lane plans

THE CHAIRMAN of a campaign group has praised the borough council for challenging the decision to allow 150 homes to be built on land in Aughton.

Colin Atkinson, chairman of Aughton Residents Group, spoke out after the council mounted a High Court challenge at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, September 13 against the Planning Inspector's decision to allow developers Wainhomes to build 150 houses on land at Prescot Road – which is due to be ratified at an Extraordinary Borough Council meeting this Thursday (September 22).

Last month, the Planning Inspector overturned the council's original decision to refuse planning approval on the site which is listed in the Local Plan as being suitable for future development.

Mr Atkinson said: "As a non politically affiliated group, we are pleased to see that the council are prepared to defend the recently adopted Local Plan and take notice of the views of the West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, borough and Aughton parish Councillors and local residents.

"The Planning Inspector is also currently deliberating on the developers Redrow's appeal to build a further 250 houses on land at Parrs Lane.

"We are hopeful that the Planning Inspector will now accept that Redrow's appeal is also contrary to the requirements of the Local Plan and refuse it.

"We have been actively campaigning and resisting development on this land for the past four years and will continue to uphold the interests of local residents."

Borough Councillor John Hodson, the portfolio holder for planning, said, "The National Planning Policy Framework has seriously undermined the powers of local government to tackle planning issues.

"As a council, we will do everything in our power to ensure that residents' concerns are taken into account in such matters."

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‘Borough’s roads are worst in county’ says councillor

Report by **Henry James**

A WEST Lancs councillor claims the borough’s roads are the worst in the county and is calling for it to receive an increased proportion of the county council’s maintenance budget.

Councillor Adrian Owens, Our West Lancashire representative for Derby ward, says figures released by Lancashire County Council following a Freedom of Information (FoI)request, revealed that 2,214 defects were reported on roads in the borough in the first three months of this year alone.

And he said this was much higher than any other borough in the county and more than three times more than those with the best-maintained.

However, the county council’s cabinet member for highways and transport, County Councillor John Fillis, defended the authority’s record on roads and said that the rate of improvements in West Lancashire was the best in the county.

Cllr. Adrian Owens, who submitted the FoI, said: “These figures confirm my hunch from travelling around the county - West Lancashire’s roads are the worst in Lancashire. It’s clear we are not getting a fair deal from the county council.

“In any organisation maintenance funds should be spent where they are needed, but many potholes and defects in our area remain unrepaired months after being reported, while the county council spends millions on roads in the rest of Lancashire.”

In response, County Councillor Fillis said: “I think everyone recognises that our roads took a hammering through torrential rain and flooding in the first three months of this year. We normally repair around 5,000 defects each month, this jumped to 7,808 in February, and 7,346 in March 2016.

Councillor Owens highlights potholes on Deans Lane, Newburgh that he says have been in need of repair for months

“In response to this we brought in 29 extra teams from external contractors to support our existing 24 crews in tackling the legacy of road damage caused by one of the wettest winters on record.

“A video survey to check the state of the highways network has been carried out over the last 12 months. It provided forward, backward, footpath and carriageway-facing images at 50cm intervals across all 2,567km of Lancashire’s highways. A representative from the Department of Transport described the work by Lancashire Highways as exemplary.

“Within West Lancashire the number of roads classified as good has increased from 57.78% in 2014 to 90.64% in 2016, showing the best improvement rate across all the boroughs.”

And he added: “More substantial improvements have been clearly demonstrated across West Lancashire, including Derby Street and the A570 between Ormskirk and the M58, which is part of Cllr Owens’ ward.”

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Spirit hunters take over civic hall for spooky fundraiser

PARANORMAL investigators took over the former Ormskirk Civic Hall recently in a bid to uncover the spooky history of the popular venue.

A dozen members of the public - along with our very own reporter *Danielle Thompson* joined five spirit-seekers from the United by Spirit Paranormal Investigators group including medium Nick Humphries to hunt throughout the venue for signs of supernatural activity.

Twenty fixed-position CCTV cameras covered each room and staircase in the venue and the team used a number of devices including night-vision roaming cameras, thermal image devices, electromagnetic energy monitors, temperature gauges and audio recording equipment.

The event ran from 9pm on Saturday, September 17 until 3am on Sunday morning.

Many of the visitors told our reporter that they were experiencing a wave of unusual feelings including feeling tight-chested and breathless, feeling cold, hearing voices and seeing mists on footage.

The United by Spirit Paranormal Investigators team with reporter Danielle (right)

The team, made up of Nick, Christine Wright, June Wright, Dave Shuttle and Tristan Mills – who have more than 100 years of experience between them - told guests to look for small balls of spirit energy, called orbs, on the CCTV footage.

Brave guests could also go searching alone on 'solo vigils' in the dark, armed only with a torch!

As well as all having full-time jobs and conducting the searches at night, the non-profit team also review the footage from every single camera separately at home after each investigation – meaning that the five of them will be reviewing a total of 120 hours of film from the Civic alone!

Nick told the Champion: "I understand if people are sceptical of the spirits, all I ask is for them to keep an open mind as they will often by surprised by what they experience on an investigation."

The event raised £220 which will be given to the ongoing drive to keep the venue open.

A teenager was injured in a collision on Dam Wood Lane

Teen cyclist left with serious injuries after road smash

A TEENAGE boy has suffered serious head injuries after a collision in Scarisbrick.

The 14-year-old boy from Ormskirk was cycling across the road on Dam Wood Lane when he was involved in a collision with a silver Vauxhall Corsa shortly before 8.20pm on Saturday, September 17. He suffered serious head and facial injuries and was taken to Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool for treatment.

At the time of going to print, his condition had improved slightly.

The driver of the Corsa, a 57-year-old man from Southport, was uninjured. The road was closed for more than three hours while accident investigators attended the scene.

Sergeant John Jennings-Wharton from Lancashire Constabulary said: "We are appealing for information after a road collision in Scarisbrick. A 14-year-old boy has suffered serious injuries and we are keen to establish exactly what happened. If you saw either the cyclist or Corsa prior to the collision, please contact us."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101.

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Council vow to help their tenants affected by floods

Report by **Henry James**

IMPROVEMENT works are being carried out by West Lancashire Borough Council to help protect its tenants, whose homes were flooded during recent heavy rains, from future problems.

The council is aware that 41 of its properties have had internal flooding caused by heavy rainfall over the last 12 months.

After torrential rain in June, residents in Skelmersdale suffered internal flooding and some saw water three feet deep in their homes.

While these flash floods were very unusual weather events, the council is keen to do all it can to ensure damage caused by future storms is limited.

Surveys are well under way to establish the most suitable flood alleviation measures for the individual properties and circumstances.

These surveys have been prioritised and work has already begun at the homes that were most affected.

Improvement measures being taken include new retaining walls, waterproof membranes, structural works, flood barriers and improvements to external drainage.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "We understand the stress and heartache that can be caused by flooding. We want to do as much as we can to protect tenants and strengthen their homes' defences against future flooding.

We will endeavour to complete necessary works as soon as possible and would ask tenants to be patient."

The council would also like to encourage any of its tenants who have been affected by internal flooding caused by heavy rainfall to get in touch if they have not already done so, for their home to be assessed.

This can be done by telephoning Peter Kewley on 01695 585396, or by email: peter.kewley@westlancs.gov.uk

Private residents who have been hit by flooding incidents can get advice by contacting the Environment Agency's Floodline 0345 988 1188.

In addition they can also get advice from the Borough Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/flooding.

The floods in Skelmersdale in June

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Dave and Dawn celebrate sixty years of marriage!

By **Danielle Thompson**

AN ORMSKIRK couple who started out as teenage sweethearts are set to celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary this week.

And it's all despite a disastrous first date and family and friends telling them it wouldn't last.

David and Dawn Beesely, from Crosshall Brow, Westhead, first met in 1954 - around about the time that Roger Bannister ran the world's first four-minute mile - and embarked on a romance that was to prove definitely more long distance than middle distance!

The course of true love certainly didn't run smooth at first though, as Dawn recalls.

"Our first date was a disaster. We went to the Picture House in Ormskirk but couldn't get two seats together so we watched the film from the opposite sides of the cinema!

"But it was love at first sight for us and although our friends and family said that it couldn't last, it has."

Despite that first date the couple married just over two years later on September 22 , 1956 at Ormskirk Parish Church.

David and Dawn Beesley are celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary.

And after a honeymoon in the Lake District they settled in their first home, a flat on Railway Road above what is now Piri Piri Grill but which was then a cafe owned by Dawn's mother.

The couple, have four children, Wendy, Terry, David and Wayne, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Before retirement Dawn worked as an accounts secretary at a school while David was a car park manager.

The couple will celebrate their milestone with a special meal with family and friends at Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom.

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Crime Commissioner welcomes extra support for domestic abuse victims

Report by **Henry James**

POLICE and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw has welcomed the changes to the domestic abuse service that will allow refuge funding to continue and means the refuge centre in the borough has a future.

Lancashire County Council has put forward proposals for £800,000 of new funding for the county's nine women's refuges.

The county council was previously the lead commissioner of domestic abuse services to medium and high-risk victims and survivors in a partnership that included district councils, the police and crime commissioner's office (OPCC) and health bodies.

The OPCC will now look to take on this role and combine it with existing work to support victims of crime through Lancashire Victims Service.

Commenting on the proposals put forward in the county council's cabinet debate, Mr Grunshaw said: "A few months ago we were facing a situation where, due to further government cuts, Lancashire County Council were consulting on the possibility of ceasing housing support funding to refuges in the county.

"By taking on the lead commissioning role for survivors of domestic abuse and combining that with the work we are already doing supporting victims of crime I am delighted we have been able to find a way to support the county council in being able to continue funding for refuges. These are places of safety for women and children when they need them most and their work undoubtedly saves lives.

"The residents of Lancashire made it clear how they felt on this issue and it is right that public bodies should work together in these challenging times to find more efficient ways to continue delivering the services that people care so much about."

County chiefs originally proposed ending funding for the centres as part of the £262m of budget cuts they have to make.

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The Liberty Centre, Ormskirk with (l-r) CEO Eleanor Maddocks, admin officer Padmini Athma, Andy Bennett, supporting male victims, and Vice-chair Maureen Fazal.

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw

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Mayor tackles the burning issues in fire station visit

Matthew Hamer of Lancashire Fire & Rescue with Mayor Liz Savage and Cllr Noel Delaney

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MAYOR Liz Savage, was given a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a firefighter during a recent visit to Ormskirk Fire Station.

Cllr. Liz Savage and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney were given a comprehensive guided tour of the County Road station by Lancashire Fire and Rescue's service delivery manager, Matthew Hamer.

In addition to their principal task of putting out fires, the Fire and Rescue Service hold information events aimed at preventing fire and accidents from happening and ensuring people are aware of fire hazards.

They also visit schools, community groups and residents' homes offering advice on how to stay safe in the event of a fire and planning escape routes from their homes, workplaces and schools should a blaze break out.

Fire fighters also attend road, rail and air traffic accidents, as well as chemical spills and floods, and domestic, industrial and grass fires.

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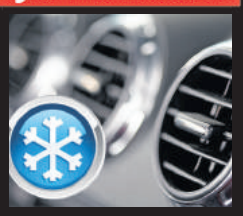

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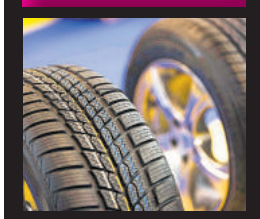

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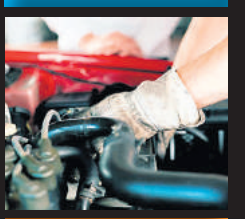

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Mums-to-be and families invited to hospital Baby Day

Report by **Henry James**

FAMILIES with young children and expectant mothers are invited to join midwives at Ormskirk Hospital on Saturday, September 24 for this year's Baby Day.

Baby Day will run from 10am to 1pm at the hospital and is a chance for mums-to-be and families with young children to see what support their midwives provide throughout pregnancy, and how Southport, Formby and Ormskirk NCT (National Childbirth Trust) can support parents during pregnancy and beyond.

On the day there will be tours of the maternity unit, information stands and the chance to meet the community midwife team. There will also be a cake stall, raffle and teddy weighing for children.

Local baby groups and business will be in attendance to promote their services and answer any questions people might have.

Consultant midwife, Catherine Boyle, said: "Baby Day is an excellent opportunity for expectant mums to come and see the facilities here and meet the midwives. There's a lot for families with young children to see and do too.

"We host this event every year with the NCT who will also be hand to offer advice and guidance on how they can help families through pregnancy and following the birth."

Baby Day is free to attend and there's no need to book. And the first 30 families arriving on the day will receive a goody bag.

Midwife Heather Davies speaks to expectant mums - there will be an opportunity to learn about the advice and guidance available at Ormskirk Hospital's Baby Day on September 24

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County supports campaign to recruit more foster carers

A NEW campaign has been launched to find more than 700 new foster homes in Lancashire.

Lancashire County Council is one of 23 local authorities backing the #youcanfoster campaign which aims to address the North West's fostering goals.

The campaign, launched this month, is aimed at replacing foster carers leaving due to retirement and natural turnover, combined with an increase in the numbers of looked-after children.

In Lancashire alone, around 20 children and young people come into care each week and urgently need foster placements. The county council is urging local people and families to step forward and find out more.

Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "In Lancashire we have 1,600 children in our care and we need more carers to provide the support and stable homes that these young people need to really thrive.

"People have a lot of preconceived ideas about why they might be ruled out as foster carers but the only thing that matters is the support you can offer the child.

"Whether you are older, single or never had children, you can foster. Foster carers don't need superpowers, they just need to be able to provide a solid and reliable foundation for children and young people to find theirs."

For more information visit youcanfoster.org.

The county council is looking to recruit more foster carers

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Guild's grand effort in memory of Melanie

MEMBERS of the Aughton Evening Townswomen's Guild have raised £1,000 for a charity appeal in memory of a 21-year-old woman who died after suffering from a brain tumour.

More than 70 members from local guilds attended the fundraising event hosted by the Aughton branch at Aughton St Michaels CE Primary School, which featured homemade gifts in their bring-and-buy sale, strawberries and cream teas, musical entertainment and a light supper.

Melanie Beattie from Ormskirk was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour in 2003 and treated at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Centre in Wirral.

Her mother, Dorothy and a group of her friends set up The Melanie Beattie Appeal in her memory after her death to raise funds for new equipment and facilities at the centre.

Aughton Townswomen's Guild member Anne Sheila McGuinness, one of the organisers of the event, told the Champion: "Melanie was a very popular young woman and the appeal is one that we really wanted to support.

"It has raised £175,000 since Melanie's death. This has been used to fund cars to send the treatment teams from the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre to patients' homes, which is incredible; and also to buy a specialist helmet for brain surgery and to

fund a conservatory built to make part of the waiting room for outpatients a nicer place to spend time.

"We made hand-crafted items to sell, including material shopping bags, Christmas cards and notebooks, while some of the items for sale were shop-bought.

"We can't thank enough all the members from the local guilds who came along to support our event including one member, Barbara Mullins, who gave a £100 donation."

Pictured is Judy King, chairperson of the guild, presented a cheque for £900, plus Barbara Mullins' cash donation, to Dorothy Beattie.

History group treated to army recruitment talk

A MILITARY historian was invited to give a talk on conscription during the First World War at a history group's latest meeting.

Richard Houghton *(pictured)* gave his talk at the last meeting of the West Lancs World War One Association earlier this month.

He explained how the task of recruitment was approached in the local area, prior to conscription being brought in during 1916.

"Parents feel their children are safe, happy and making good progress. Pupils of all ages say they find daily meditation helps them to settle. Pupils in Year 10 and 11 have a particularly mature approach to learning"
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Charity calls on public to rally round flagship fundraising event

RESIDENTS in Lancashire are being urged to do their bit for Macmillan's flagship fundraiser, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, on Friday, September 30 when every slice of cake eaten and cup of coffee poured has the power to help change lives for people living with cancer.

The charity is asking everyone to take part, either by hosting a coffee morning or by attending one.

It's the nation's biggest social fundraiser for cancer. Last nearly 2,400 coffee mornings were held in Lancashire raising around £549,650 for the charity whichprovides essential support for people affected by cancer.

This years 26th anniversary of the event and officials at Macmillan hope to beat the £27.6m raised last year across the UK.

All money raised will be used to help fund the charity's vital services that provide practical, financial, emotional and medical support to people affected by cancer - including information and support centres and welfare rights advice across the county, as well as the cancer nurse specialists.

Macmillan's fundraising manager for Lancashire, Lisa Wild, said: "We want to make sure no one has to face cancer alone but we can't do it without the amazing people who fundraise for us.

"We rely on the generosity of our supporters for more than 99% of our income and coffee morning events are a great way to have fun whilst raising vital funds to help people affected by cancer.

"It's easy to take part and there's all the help and information you need to host your own Macmillan coffee morning on the dedicated website www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk, where you can also find details of public and community Macmillan coffee mornings."

Officials of cancer charity Macmillan are urging Lancashire residents to take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning

If you can't host or get along to a coffee morning, visit your local M&S or Nationwide Building Society – both are partners of this year's event and staff will be baking up a storm.

During September M&S will be selling a number of exclusive homeware items to raise funds for Macmillan as well as donating 10 percent from sales of selected classic cakes.

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Union leaders Lynn Collins and John Flannery with hospital trust interim chief executive Iain McInnes and the charter

Hospital trust signs up to Dying to Work charter

SOUTHPORT and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust is the first in the country to sign a charter supporting employees who become terminally ill at work.

It is also the first employer in the North West to support the TUC Dying to Work campaign.

The voluntary charter has already been signed by a number of other organisations including the energy company E-ON.

Interim chief executive Iain McInnes joined John Flannery from Unison and North West TUC regional secretary, Lynn Collins for the signing at Southport Hospital.

Iain McInnes said: "The trust recognises that staff members with terminal illnesses need support and understanding, especially when it comes to removing or reducing any stress and worry about their job. We are delighted to support this initiative."

John Flannery commented: "In my experience the trust has always been extremely supportive of staff who have been diagnosed with terminal illness. The decision to commit to the TUC charter was an easy one as it is the right thing to do. Nobody should be forced to leave employment due to terminal illness and they should be afforded the right to choose their own path at the end of their life."

And Lynn Collins added: "Worrying about your job should be the least of your concerns when you receive a terminal diagnosis. Signing the charter has provided peace of mind to 3,500 workers at the trust which is to be commended for signing."

Dying to Work was set up following the case of 58-year-old Jacci Woodcock from Derbyshire, who was forced out of her job after being diagnosed with terminal breast cancer. The TUC is asking employers to sign up to the voluntary charter to prevent similar cases in the future.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

The promotion of equality in education needs to be addressed at an earlier age

CURRENT government debate focuses on whether or not more grammar schools will promote less equality - but they're starting at the wrong end!

The greatest child inequalities occur between the ages of four and seven.

Developmental psychologists' studies have long shown that this is a period of widely differing cognitive, linguistic. emotional and social levels of development.

As a result, during these ages play and interaction with other children is vital to the learning process.

Nordic countries such as Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, acknowledge this fact and have long-established and well-resourced kindergartens which cater for children from age of three to six or seven. International surveys repeatedly show their very high educational attainments.

Children are encouraged through play to develop and learn at their individual stage of readiness. Play includes conversing in groups and with adults, mixing, building, cutting and painting, as well as running, jumping, climbing and the incident learning of oral literacy and numeracy.

This improves cognitive, social and emotional development. Children who can already read and write are given teacher encouragement but the emphasis is on all-round development and well-being.

Our young children are often expected to sit for long periods while teachers hope that they are listening and understanding the information imparted to them in order to pass (or fail) an increasing number of tests. Yet there is no evidence that early formal teaching improves long-term results. Indeed, over the past 20 years our literacy standards in particular have declined.

Also, with the increase in information technology an increasing number of children begin school with poorly-developed speech, listening and social skills, many are unable to sit still for long and in some areas a few still wear nappies.

Clearly there is now even more need for active, creative play before formal learning takes place. This is the way to reduce inequalities - not by testing. Make sure there are solid foundations before mending the roof.

Nama Mudd, Burscough

Concourse management have priorities in a mess

SINCE I last corresponded with you on August 22, the lift and the up escalator at the front of the Skelmersdale Concourse Shopping Centre are still out of action.

On Saturday my daughter and I had to show a lady to the only up escalator that works (in the market area) as she needed to get her medicines from Boots and could not manage the stairs.

Today (Monday, September 11) the escalator in the market area also went off - leaving the entire centre with no means of getting up except for the ramp, which even able-bodied people struggle to push a trolley up or down, especially when loaded with shopping.

Traders on the upper level by the lift (broken) are complaining of lack of trade, even Subway!

As I left today there were two ambulances outside, I just hope no-one had a heart attack or even an asthma attack struggling on the stairs or the ramp.

The management are boasting about the Christmas things they are going to spend their budget on. This year there will be a massive Christmas tree, because there wasn't one last year. Father Christmas will arrive with his reindeers. We all know that costs as the police will have to shut the road outside when he arrives.

All I can say is it's a good job Father Christmas has a magic sleigh because it's the only way to get upstairs in the Concourse unless you use the concrete steps, or the rather steep ramp.

The management have their priorities all messed up. By the time Christmas comes most shoppers will be shopping elsewhere and the budget funds will have been wasted.

All shops pay rent and a management fee for the services like security, cleaners, the lifts, the escalators - where is this management fee going?

Skelmersdale resident, details supplied

PICTURE of the week

Six hours in and the setting sun signals the start of nightime sailing skills being put to the test in the West Lancashire Yacht Club 24 Hour race last weekend. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Councillor should check HIS facts before criticising others!

WITH reference to a letter I had written to the Champion (September 7) regarding Councillor Adrian Owens, I would like Councillor Greenall to read the letter again. No mention was made in my letter regarding Westhead Village.

I trust when he reads my letter again and the sentence in his response (September 14) 'I must take issue with one comment by Mrs Davies', he will acknowledge the fact that my letter had nothing to do with Westhead. I have no idea what happened in Westhead Village.

As Councillor Greenall so kindly states 'compliment those who you admire, but please check your facts next time you choose to criticise others' - a great statement but totally out of context with what I had actually written.

Please don't apologise, Councillor Greenall. I would sooner you read correspondence correctly which will then avoid unnecessary and unfortunately, incorrect letters being published.

Carole Davies, by email

Drop us a line

■ IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors and are NOT necessarily endorsed or advocated in any way by Champion Newspapers.

Has commission got its boundaries crossed?

WHILE we live in Liverpool, my wife is from Ormskirk and her mum lives on Green Lane by the rugby ground. I see the Champion and think what a very good local paper you are.

The Review of Constituency Boundaries has just been produced and one proposal is to have a small area of West Lancs linked with Southport but the commissioners have stated that North Meols and Tarleton are in a Ribble borough rather than West Lancs.

I read the Boundary Commission's report on the North West and you could fail GCSE geography with errors like this: 'We propose two constituencies that contain electors from both Cheshire and Greater Manchester, which combine Altrincham and Knutsford in a constituency and the towns of Bramhall and Poynton in a constituency.

'Although we have treated Lancashire and Merseyside as separate sub-regions, we have proposed one constituency that crosses the county boundary, which combines three wards of the borough of Ribble Valley with the town of Southport.'

Ultan Russell, by email

Hospital standards have dropped since the days when matrons kept staff in line

I AGREE with the recent letter published in the Champion regarding hospital staff wearing their uniform outside.

Back in the old days hospital staff would have to change into their outdoor clothes before leaving hospital.

Also, the wards used to smell of carbolic that is how thorough they were back then.

Uniforms were starched and pressed but these days I have seen hospital staff travelling on public transport with their uniforms on plus they have their hospital instruments on show too. No wonder there are more diseases knocking around.

Also, I saw a programme showing hospital cleaning staff using fairy liquid or the equivalent to wash the floors and specialist units too using the same mop for everything.

Standards have dropped considerably since there are no matrons on duty anymore, they used to keep everyone in line.

Elizabeth Bennett, Skelmersdale

They may as well call our town Studentville!

SO, yet more buildings in Ormskirk have been sacrificed for students accommodation courtesy of a certain developer and our planning department.

The town must now qualify for a change of name. How about Studentville?

Policies have been in place since 2002 to protect communities from overkill in HMOs and the effect it has on areas so why aren't West Lancs Council enforcing this?

Studentville resident, details supplied

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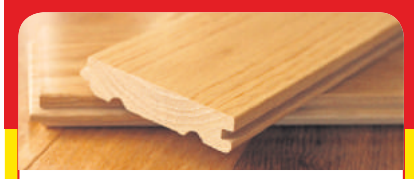

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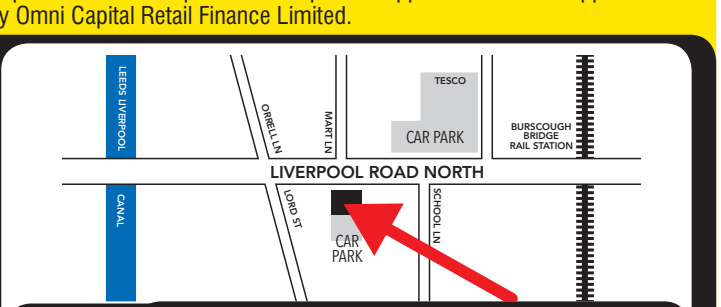

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Volunteers dig in to tidy up graveyard

A TEAM of volunteers staged a tidy-up session at a village graveyard.

The volunteers - Jo Housley, Barbara Morris, Stan Barnes, Sheila Prentice, Jean Hall, Norma Rimmer, Audrey Banks, Merrick Rimmer, Freda Brownbill, Irene McCarthy, Steve Hall, Mike Clarke, Mary Clarke and Edward McCarthy - held the clean-up event at Holy Trinity, Church, Bickerstaffe.

Edward McCarthy said: "The current graveyard has been in use since 1844. It is maintained during the year by a combination of a contract gardener and church members.

"The graveyard will be full by the end of the year and work has begun on an extension at the back of the current plot.

"Anyone who would like to contribute to the maintenance of the graveyard and the new extension project can get in touch with the vicar or church wardens."

For more information visit holytrinitybickerstaffe.co.uk.

The Holy Trinity graveyard clean-up volunteers

Concert raises £700 for Civic campaign

A GROUP of singers and musicians hit the right note when they performed a free concert and raised £700 for a worthy cause.

More than 50 vocalists and instrumentalists took part in an eight-hour music marathon at The Civic in Ormskirk, organised by Eunice Woof and Nancy Wells, members of the board of advisors at the Southport Road venue.

Following its re-opening in April, the new management team at The Civic started a fun-draising campaign to ensure the future of the community building.

Eunice Woof said: "I can't think of a more enjoyable way of raising funds than to play and listen to such a diverse range of music by talented local people for such a good cause."

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Old boy gives primary school leavers a star-shaped send-off!

BUDDING photographer Harrison Moss returned to his old school to help give pupils leaving to move up to high school an extra-special send-off.

The talented 16-year-old camera ace went back to Aughton Town Green Primary and, with the aid of a drone, took this stunning picture (right) of the outgoing Year 6 youngsters in a starburst formation and also one spelling out the year 2016.

Harrison, a former pupil at the Town Green Lane school wanted the images to represent 'goodbye and good luck' to the 2016 leavers and they proved a big hit with the pupils and their parents at their farewell assembly.

Kate Bousfield, whose son featured in the shots, said: "The children were delighted when Harrison came in to take the photos and when the parents saw the results they were stunned by how fabulous they looked!"

Right: Harrison's starburst shot of Aughton Town Green Primary School leavers

Council puts tenants on 'pay to stay' scheme alert

WEST Lancs Council has warned council tenants in the borough who earn more than £31,000 a year that they may face increased rents from April 2017 under the government's 'pay to stay' scheme.

While full details of the scheme have not yet been announced by the government, the authority is taking steps to advise tenants that changes are in the pipeline.

Pay to stay will mean that tenants whose household income is more than £31,000 will pay rent at market rates.

When calculating household income, the income of tenants or joint tenants and their spouses or partners is taken into account, but not children's income.

The new rules will apply to all tenants except those receiving housing benefit or universal credit. There is no exemption for pensioners. However the government has said that child benefit, Disability Living Allowance and tax credits will not count as household income for pay to stay.

It is estimated that up to 1,700 council tenants in West Lancashire may be affected by the new rules and could face rent rises.

Advice

Councillor Jenny Patterson, the council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "The government has said that pay to stay will be introduced from April 2017. However, important details of how market rents are to be assessed, and other arrangements, have not yet been announced.

"As soon as we have more detailed information we will be writing to council tenants to give them advice on how pay to stay will affect them."

Fashion show for charity

VOICE coach Caroline Derbyshire, owner of the CD Music Academy in Rufford, is holding a fashion show to raise funds for the Mayor of West Lancashire's charities.

The first CD Music Academy Fashion Show will take place at The Civic in Southport Road, Ormskirk from noon to 5pm on Saturday, October 8.

Entry costs £6 with proceeds being divided between Councillor Liz Savage's three chosen charities for the year - The Civic; The Birchwood Centre and the Artz Centre, both in Skelmersdale; and Ormskirk Hospital's neo-natal unit.

For more details email cdmusic@talktalk.net.

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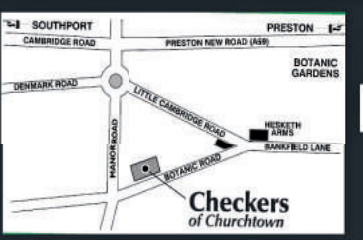

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Chance to get 'hands-on' at animation exhibition

VISITORS to the Chapel Gallery are being encouraged to get 'hands-on' with a new modelling animation exhibition.

AniMotion, a specially-commissioned exhibition inspired by animation techniques, is currently being held at the gallery in St Helens Road, Ormskirk where visitors can meet 'legendary' children's TV animated character Morph.

People attending the exhibition will enter a magical world created especially by some of the UK's most imaginative artists and animators.

Visitors can watch as their faces come to life in the guise of on-screen winged creatures or try out an Occulus Rift headset and transform the features of a huge Day of the Dead inflatable skull and watch its hypnotic animated eyes.

Inspired

There's also a chance to experiment with a range of animation techniques inspired by exhibits from international animators including the world-famous Aardman studios, creators of Wallace and Gromit, among others.

The exhibition runs until November 12.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "This exhibition sounds like a lot of fun so bring the family to the gallery to join in the excitement."

The exhibition features several animation techniques, from stop motion through to computer-generated imagery (CGI).

Several commissioned artists have produced work which illustrates these techniques and all have been designed to be enjoyably interactive.

To find out more, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/chapelgallery.

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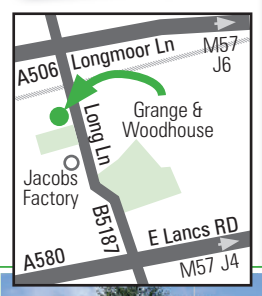

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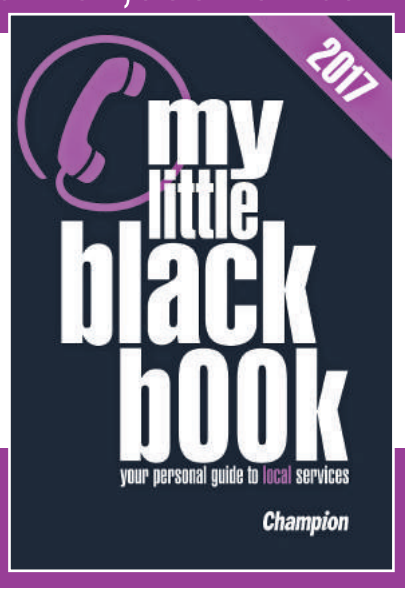

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Police chief pledges more support for victims of crime

LANCASHIRE Constabulary is set to expand its support services for the victims of crime.

The service, set up by the county's police and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw in April 2015, is expected to receive more than 60,000 referrals in future years and will extend the support it offers to include domestic abuse and adult sexual abuse services.

A number of providers work together under Lancashire Victim Services (LVS) and the commissioner is looking to build on the success of the service so far. The current contract for providing the managed service comes to an end next year and experienced organisations are now being invited to tender for the new three-year contract.

The successful bidder will be expected to work with the commissioner's office to raise awareness of LVS as well as the support available for victims of specific crime types, including domestic abuse, hate crime, human trafficking and fraud.

PCC Clive Grunshaw

Mr Grunshaw said: "Since taking over responsibility for commissioning victim services in Lancashire, I have expanded the range of support available by involving a wider range of partners to help deliver the service.

"I am proud of the work we have done to develop the range of support available and LVS will continue to provide that help and advice to anyone who has been affected by crime. This is an opportunity to build on that success and ensure the service can adapt and grow to help even more people over the next three years.

"I remain committed to ensuring Lancashire reaps the economic, social and environmental benefits of any contracts awarded by my office so I expect bidders to show how they will deliver that."

Since April 2015, PCCs have been responsible for commissioning victim services locally. The new contract, which is expected to start on April 1, 2017, will last for three years and have the option to extend for a further two years.

The tender documents are available to view on the commissioner's website. Visit lancashire-pcc.gov.uk/victim-services-commission/ for more details.

Care trust shortlisted for national award

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust is among a handful of healthcare organisations in the running for a prestigious national award.

The trust is one of just 10 organisations from 117 applicants shortlisted for a Health Service Journal (HSJ) award in the acute, community and/or primary care services redesign category for the transformation of community services in Blackburn with Darwen.

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Sometimes it doesn't pay to ask an 'expert'...

Some time ago I recounted how I lost faith in the infallibility of local councillors after hearing their odd ideas for improving the local bus service.

I have an interest in public transport and I realised that they were, to put it bluntly, talking out of the back of their collective heads.

And that worried me because if I knew they were talking rubbish about buses, how could I be sure they had any better knowledge when it came to drains or rubbish collection? But I consoled myself that at least they were doing the best they could to help the residents.

So I'm not about to have another go at local councillors. It's just that watching telly the other day, I realised that even experts can talk a load of rubbish too from time to time.

I was watching *Bargain Hunt*, a programme where two teams are each given an expert to help them select antique and collectable bargains and hopefully make a profit selling them at auction.

It's all a bit of fun, and the result really doesn't matter. But I have always assumed the various experts really do know what they are talking about. However, on this occasion, one of the pairs spotted some tinplate toy trains, which they quite rightly thought might at the right price be the kind of bargain that could bring them a profit.

In the event, they did buy two Pullman carriages and a clockwork locomotive sans its tender. And happily they did make a small profit on their transaction.

Now I certainly don't claim to be an expert on toys, or indeed scale model railways - but I did have a Triang train set as a boy, and later started out on an abortive scale model of a GWR branch line as I imagined it to be in the 1930s.

And I was amazed at the lack of knowledge on this subject shown by the so-called expert.

For a start he reckoned the find was old Hornby railway stock. Well, the loco looked right – but somehow I doubt that the Pullmans originated from Binns Road.

And neither he (nor the two contestant for that matter) seemed to realise that the steam-outline loco they had needed a tender to make it complete (or indeed useable).

Now none of this really mattered because the items they had discovered did in any case have some value to collectors. Mainly because they were old. Luckily for them, far older than their expert seemed to think.

He pronounced them to be 'probably more than 50 years old – a product of the 1960s'. Oh no they weren't. Even I, with fond memories of that erstwhile informative monthly publication, '*The Meccano Magazine*, could have told him that both loco and carriages dated from at least the 1940s and possibly even from before the Second World War!

Which was why, even in a general sale such as this was, the items managed to make a small profit for the contenders. Possibly they would have made more in a specialist auction.

This episode saddened me somewhat, because I enjoy experts telling me things I didn't know. It's called general knowledge - something in short supply these days judging from the blank looks of some contestants in TV quiz shows.

It irks me to hear 'we didn't do that at school', or worse 'that was before my time' as an excuse for not knowing this or that. After all, just about everything that has happened in this world did it before my time, but that's no reason for knowing little or nothing that occurred more than 70 years ago!

Of course we should all be able to express opinions of our own, but sometimes it's a good idea actually to listen to other people as well.

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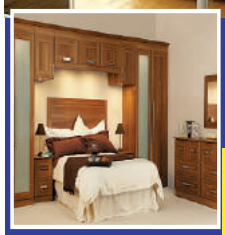
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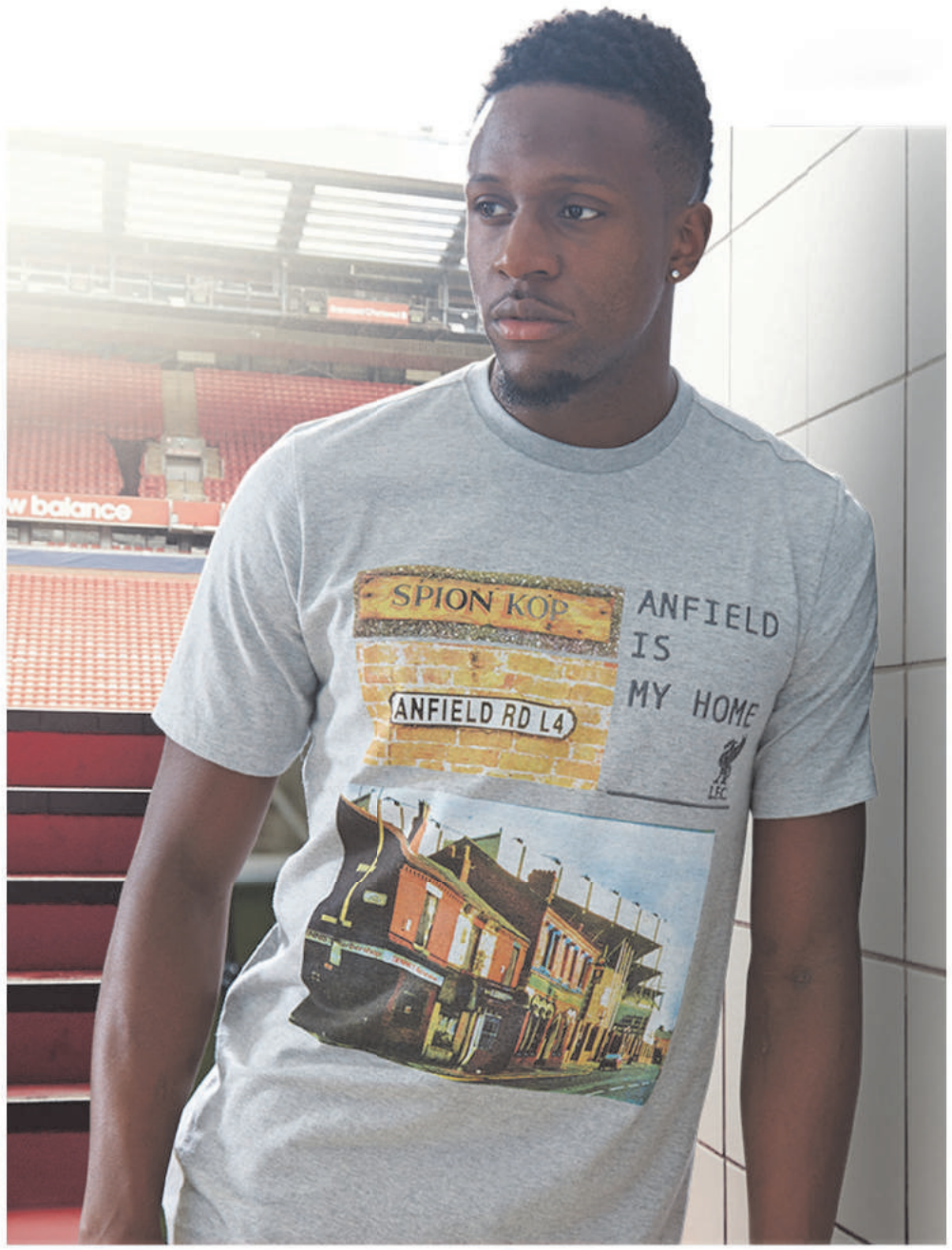

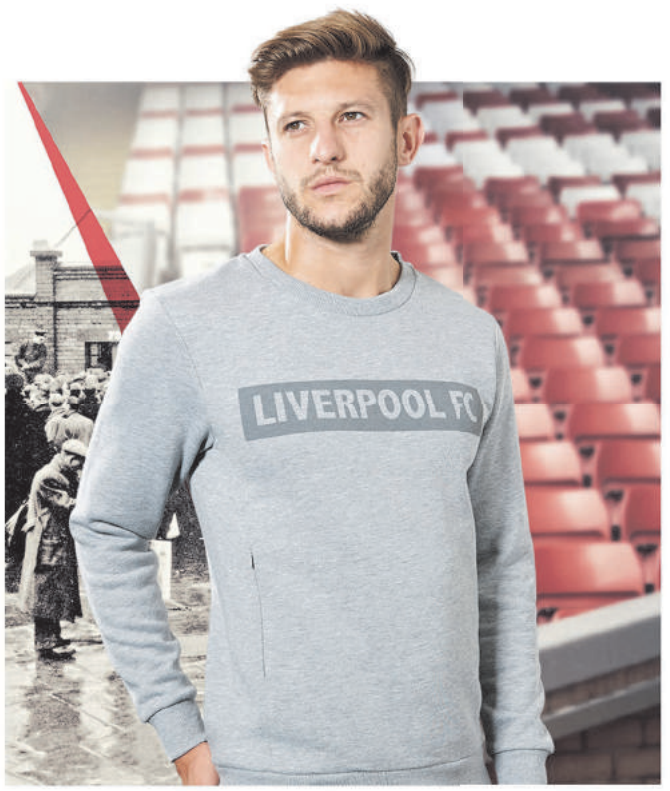

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County needs more GPs, says health watchdog chair

Report by **Henry James**

THE chairman of the county's health and social care watchdog says Lancashire needs more GPs.

Mike Wedgeworth of Healthwatch Lancashire says there is clear evidence of a North-South divide and claims the county has far fewer doctors than its fair share.

Statistics from NHS Digital, the national provider of information, data and IT systems for health and social care, show that if you live in Lancashire, your local doctor is likely to have 220 more patients than the national average, and 340 more than practices in the south of England.

Problems

Mr Wedgeworth said: "This must be one of the reasons why Healthwatch Lancashire's research is underlining the problems patients face in getting same-day and even urgent appointments with their doctor.

"From seven visits to GPs carried out over the past three months across Lancashire, Healthwatch Lancashire's findings show an average of 58% of patients said they find it difficult to get same-day appointments. Yet on average more than 98% of those very same patients expressed strong support for the staff in the practices.

Mike Wedgeworth, chair of Healthwatch Lancashire

"The explanation seems obvious. People value their practice highly but there is just not enough 'doctor time' to go round."

Healthwatch has listened to patients at practices in Ormskirk, as well as Accrington, Brierfield, Nelson, Preston, Morecambe and Fleetwood, following the launch of a programme of visits to GP surgeries across the county since June 2016.

According to NHS Digital around 90 per cent of patient interaction is with primary care services, such as GPs, yet practices have had only a fraction of the investment that has gone into hospitals in recent years.

Incentives

Earlier this year Simon Stevens, chief executive of NHS England, said: "If anyone 10 years ago had said: 'Here's what the NHS should now do – cut the share of funding for primary care and grow the number of hospital specialists three times faster than GPs' they'd have been laughed out of court. But looking back over a decade, that's exactly what's happened."

Mike Wedgeworth added: "The government has promised to provide more GPs and incentives for them to work in areas where the need is greatest.

"The people of Lancashire both need and deserve this promise to be fulfilled."

Healthwatch Lancashire has published reports from the visits to the GP surgeries. These are now available to read on their website at www.healthwatchlancashire.co.uk.

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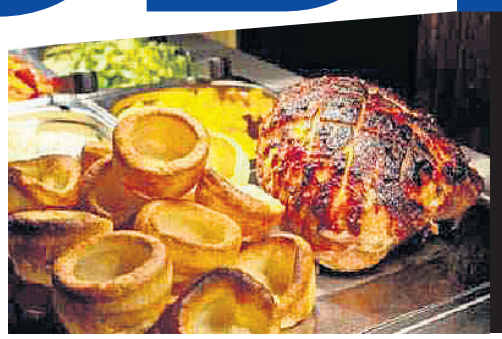

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Lisa Hunter Dip.F.D.
Sally Hunter Dip.F.D.
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

The Hunter Family Funeral Homes in Aughton and Burscough
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At MLS Independent Funeral Directors which is owned and managed by The Hunter Family you are assured to receive all the help, care and expertise you need when it comes to arranging a funeral for your loved one.

Margaret Hunter, Lisa Hunter and Sally Hunter are MLS Independent Funeral Directors and operate only from their funeral homes at 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough and 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton.

Being the only 'independent' funeral directors in the area, the family have been serving the community for almost 30 years.

An independent family funeral directors, third generation family members now work alongside the three qualified funeral directors – Margaret, Lisa and Sally – each of which hold a Diploma in Funeral directing issued by the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Lisa and Sally explained: "Few of us like to think about funeral arrangements for those we love so when the unexpected happens, we can often be unprepared and in a state of grief. This is when the services of a funeral director who is professional, highly experienced and above all understanding is needed.

"Arrangements can be made at either of our Funeral Homes in Burscough or Aughton, or we can visit you in the comfort of your own home."

MLS Independent Funeral Directors is a true family concern, and with over 90 years combined experience in the funeral profession, the Hunter family really do know how to care for the needs of every bereaved family. It is this caring approach that has seen the business grow.

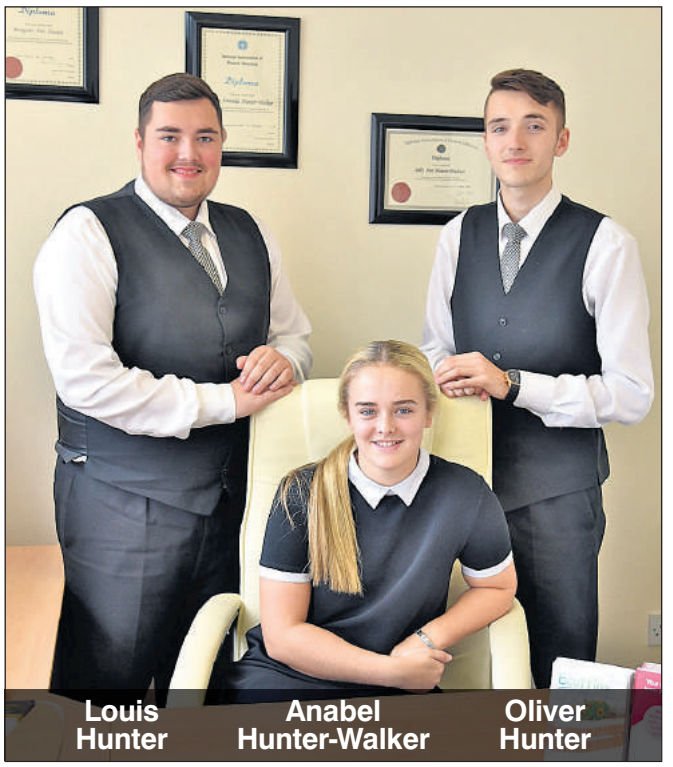
Margaret, Lisa and Sally said: "We have chapels of rest in Burscough and Aughton within our new funeral home. We believe that the availability of caring female and male staff has been particularly welcomed by many bereaved families, and many continue to stay in contact long after the funeral."

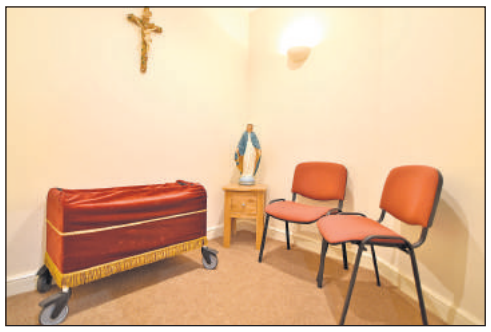
"We are dedicated, professional Funeral Directors based in Burscough and Aughton, Ormskirk who provide a personal service to you 24 hours a day 365 days a year. We are here to help and advise in any way we can. As a family run funeral business we are committed to traditional values. Our aim is to ensure every funeral is relevant and completely personal.

"We arrange Golden Charter Pre Paid Funeral Plans, and also carry out all aspects of memorial work.

"If at any point you have any questions you would like answering, please call us on 01704 891555 or 01695 424888 or call in for a chat at our premises.

Help and support when you need it most."





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Margaret seeks to track down her 'Good Samaritans'

A PENSIONER is seeking to track down the Good Samaritans who came to her rescue when she suffered an injury that left her unable to walk.

Margaret Owen from Town End Close, Ormskirk was walking along Aughton Street in the town on Monday, September 12 when her right leg suddenly gave away as she passed St Anne's Primary School shortly after 1pm.

The 68-year-old had suffered a sprained tendon and was in considerable pain.

Fortunately a couple passing by in a white 4x4 vehicle spotted her and stopped to lend assistance.

Margaret Owen was walking past St Anne's Primary School on Aughton Street when she pulled her right tendon

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Kindness

After helping Margaret to her feet and into their car the pair, who she believes were aged in their 40s, drove her home and waited with her for an hour before paramedics arrived to take her to hospital.

The former smallholding owner was diagnosed with a pulled tendon and has been told to rest her leg for a couple of weeks.

Now though she wants to trace the mystery couple, whose names she has forgotten, to thank them properly for their kindness.

Margaret said: "My leg just gave way and I was in excruciating pain, it was horrible. The couple stopped, helped me in and dropped me at home. My neighbour, Graham Hughes and the couple helped me in and sat with me for an hour while I was waiting to be picked up.

"They were all so kind, as were the paramedics, Pauline and Phil, who were amazing.

"I'd love to thank this sweet couple myself, but I can't remember their names or address, as I was in such pain, although they did tell me. I do remember though that they said they lived somewhere so rural that they are not on a bus route.

"I'd love them to get in touch so I can thank them properly. If they would like to they can ring me on 01695 576873."

Reader's 'lost' keys appeal

READER Jeff Shaw is hoping that the power of the Champion can help him recover his lost house and car keys!

The 32-year-old from Shirdley Hill met up with old friend Steve Lockhart, whom he hadn't seen for years, last week. After accepting a lift home from his long-lost pal, Jeff realised he had left the keys in the car after putting them in the pouch on the inside of the passenger door out of habit.

And, unfortunately, he doesn't have Steve's address or phone number, which is ex-directory. Now he's hoping Steve, or someone who knows him, will see this and arrange for the keys to be dropped off at the Heaton's Bridge Inn.

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Lady golfers celebrate club's125th anniversary

LADIES at West Lancashire Golf Club have been celebrating their 125th anniversary this year.

Many events have already been hosted by the Ladies' Section at the Blundellsands course this year including the Lancashire County Senior Ladies Championship, the Lancashire Ladies County Championship and the English Women's Amateur Championship.

Off the course, the occasion was marked by the hosting of a special 125th celebration dinner with more than 150 members and guests attending.

Principal guest, Marian Rae, president of England Golf, proposed the toast to the ladies of the West Lancashire Golf Club. Jackie Bickerstaffe, lady captain of West Lancashire, responded and Susan Forbes, captain of Formby Ladies' Golf Club replied on behalf of the guests.

The West Lancashire Ladies Golf Club, founded in 1891, was one of the first ladies clubs in England and was one of the founder members of the Lancashire Ladies County Golf Association. J. W. Fowler, a founder member of the club, became the first elected Lancashire County captain, one of seven from this historic club.

The West Lancashire course has been used several times as the final qualifying course for The Open Championship and will be hosting regional Open qualifying in 2017, when The Open returns to Royal Birkdale.

Guest speakers at the 125th anniversary dinner

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Financial advisers break £100m business barrier

A WEST Lancs firm of financial advisers has broken the £100million barrier for funds under its management.

Acumen Financial Partnership, based at the Swordfish Business Park, Burscough, has reported a 13% increase in funds under management in the year from September 2015 with the total figure currently standing at £113m.

This represents a significant increase over the 12-month period and follows continued strong growth for the firm from figures of £35m in 2010 and £65m in 2013.

Acumen's managing director, Angela Maher, who was this year listed in The Sunday Times' top 250 UK independent financial advisers, said: "It is a tremendous achievement for Acumen to have broken this barrier in 2016, which marks a decade since the firm was first established.

"To have increased our funds under management by almost £50m in the past three years shows the strength of the company and the positive direction in which we are headed."

And Jon Landy, director of Acumen Financial Partnership, added: "Breaking the £100m barrier of funds under management is a significant milestone and testament to both the hard work of the Acumen team and the service provided to our clients.

"This news comes during an eventful 12 months for Acumen in which we welcomed two new members of staff, saw two others become qualified advisers, and moved into new, 4,600 sq ft premises on Swordfish Business Park."

Jon Landy and Angela Maher from Acumen Financial Partnership.

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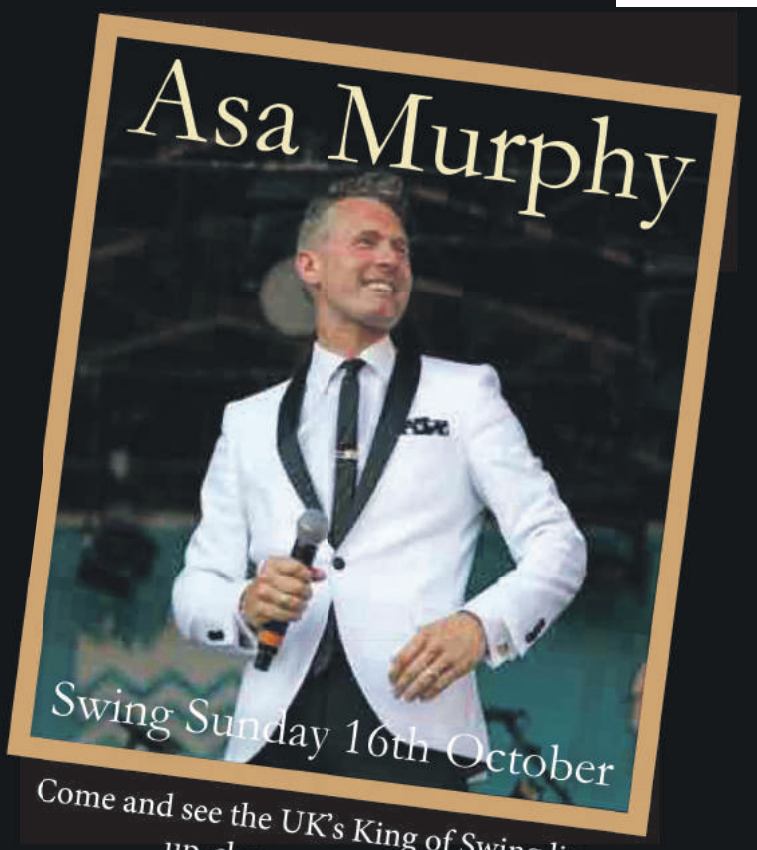

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Martin Mere news

Over the next couple of weeks there will soon be the familiar sound of geese passing overhead – yes Autumn has officially begun, and WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre will soon be expecting the arrival of up to 30,000 Pink-footed geese after their journey from Iceland and Martin Mere is offering some special free entry late evenings.

Reserve Manager, Tom Clare, said: "the geese need perfect weather conditions to make the journey from Iceland but we would expect up to 30,000+ geese using the reserve by late September and throughout October."

From Wednesday 28 September, Martin Mere will be open until 7pm every Wednesday and Saturday to allow visitors to watch the full spectacle of seeing the geese come into roost. Visitors need to have entered the centre before it closes at 6pm but the nature trail and hides will be open until 7pm. Normal admission charges apply but you can come onto the nature reserve for free between 5.30pm and 6pm for the last hour.

On Saturday 1, 8, 15 & 22 October, experience the haunting sound and the thrill of an early morning hide visit with a warden. In past years at this time, the whooper swans have started to arrive back from Iceland and there will be thousands of pink-footed geese on the reserve – you can watch them as they wake and leave the roost. The event starts at 7am and includes a full English breakfast. The cost is £15.50 and you must book in advance by calling 01704 895181.

Tom continues to say: "my most memorable moment here at Martin Mere was before dawn and I had come to work early to carry out a count of the Pink-footed geese. I wandered sleepily down to the Ron Barker hide and could immediately hear the "murmuring" of many "Pinkies". As I looked out of the hide, the two marshes where completely covered with geese. I don't actually think any more could fit in. I was stunned at the sight and it took me a while to start counting, but the count revealed 25,000 geese just from this hide. I then waited until they started to take off. Surely this has to be one of the greatest sights of nature and it is equally amazing seeing them fly in at night before they settle so I am delighted that we are offering late openings this year".

WWT Martin Mere is open every day from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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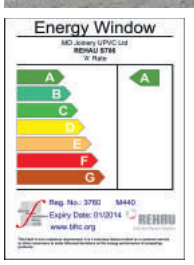

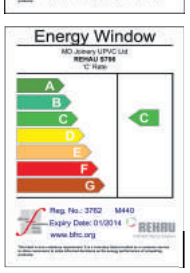

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Members of the 1st Ormskirk Scouts and leaders at the Essex International Jamboree

Scouts' jamboree jaunt

MEMBERS of a local Scout group have taken part in the biggest joint Scout and Guide event in Europe.

The nine members of the 1st Ormskirk troop, based at The Hut in Wigan Road, Ormskirk, joined more than 10,000 others from across the world, including Sweden, Norway, the USAs, Ireland, and Canada at the Essex International Jamboree.

They took part in a range of fun activities at the week-long camp-based event, including zorbing, quad biking, clay pigeon shooting and climbing.

Meanwhile their teamwork skills were put to the test in challenges including running a sweetshop, trying out the renowned secret recipe of Ormskirk gingerbread and running a hook-a-duck stall at the jamboree's fair.

Earlier in the summer, the 1st Ormskirk Scout group took younger Scouts to their own annual summer camp here they participated in climbing, geocaching and various team-building activities.

The 1st Ormskirk Scouts caters for both boys and girls, with Beavers aged six-eight, Cubs, aged eight-10 and Scouts, aged 10 to 14 years.

Local opticians back eye health campaign

OPTICIANS in Ormskirk will be backing a national eye-health week-long campaign.

Staff at Specsavers in Church Street are hoping to raise funds for the charity Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) to coincide with raising awareness of the importance of regular eye tests during National Eye Health Week, which runs until Monday, September 25.

Regular eye tests can prevent people from needlessly losing their sight and staff and RNIB volunteers will be inviting customers and locals to donate to the cause by collecting in store and raising awareness of sight loss.

Ormskirk Specsavers store director, Neil Pearson, said: "It's astonishing that so many people are needlessly living with or at risk of sight loss in the UK today. Half of all sight loss cases are preventable – and a simple eye test can be the first step in prevention.

"Our mission, together with RNIB, is to transform the nation's eye health through education, awareness and action; we want to reverse worrying eye health trends that put unnecessary pressure on the health service and place a massive burden on the public purse."

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New classroom unveiled

PUPILS at Burscough Village Primary School 'kick-started' the school year in style with a new classroom officially opened by two ladies football stars.

Everton Ladies FC players, Faye Bryson and Jen Myler, opened the new modular classroom for Year 6 to mark the start of term.

The classroom, which boasts its own electricity and plumbing supply, toilets and a cloakroom, was completed during the holidays after work started at the end of June, using funds allocated from the school's budget.

Headteacher, Gillian Serjeant, said: "We are delighted with our modular build classroom, which enhances our school grounds beautifully.

"Our outdoor space already benefits from an open classroom, woodland area and well-developed sensory garden so the eco-friendly new-build blends in with the natural surroundings. The facilities and extensive playing fields are often commented upon by parents and visitors."

Everton Ladies FC stars Faye Bryson and Jen Myler with Year 6 pupils in the new classroom

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NHS Public Meeting
NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will present last year's accounts at its AGM (annual general meeting), which is open for everyone to attend.
The AGM will be part of a jointly hosted event with West Lancs CVS.
At the event, there will be an update on progress to date and the opportunity to share your views on the CCG's plans for the future. Your questions will be welcomed on the day.
Evermoor Community Hub, 1 Birleywood, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9HR on Tuesday 27 September from 11.30am (for registration) until 3.00pm.
As lunch and refreshments will be provided and in order to know numbers, it is essential that you book your place in advance.
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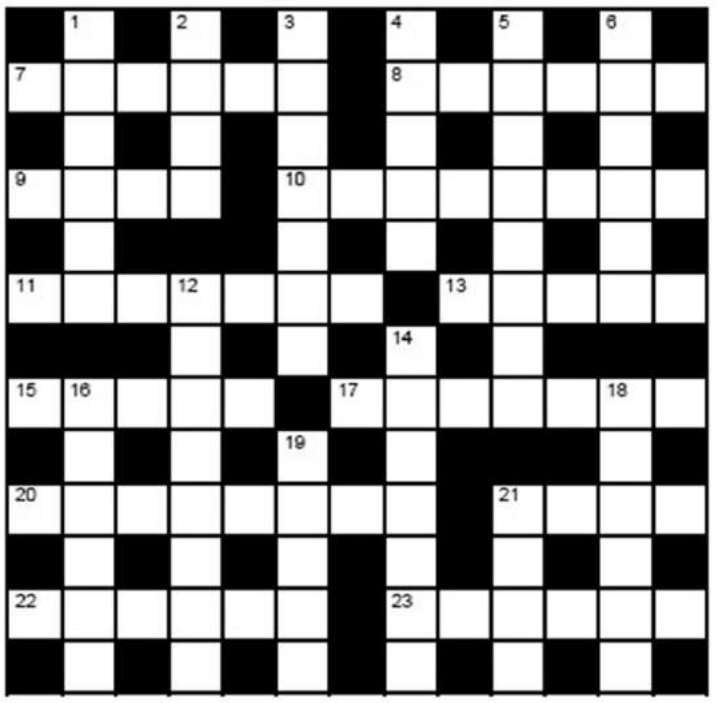

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Under the table. 8 Windburn. 9 Epic. 10 Wounded. 12 Putty. 14 Seamy. 16 Remarry. 19 Hers. 20 Eye chart. 22 String quartet.

Down: 1 Anti. 2 Tendon. 3 Strudel. 4 Feint. 5 Gateau. 6 Cloister. 11 Omelette. 13 Renegue. 15 Muslin. 17 Adhere. 18 Reign. 21 Reef.

ACROSS

7 In computing a small application (6)
8 Two-person bicycle (6)
9 Abrupt, high-pitched ringing sound (4)
10 Semicircular or crescent-shaped object (4-4)
11 Assembly, gathering (7)
13 Bring together (5)
15 Loan-sharking (5)
17 Use of irony to mock (7)
20 Ratify, endorse (8)
21 Hard rubber disc used in ice hockey (4)
22 Plant native to Mexico cultivated for its brightly-coloured flowers (6)
23 More positive aspect of a situation (6)

DOWN

1 Interweave, entwine (6)
2 Punish by beating with a whip (4)
3 Act or process of making designs or pictures on a metal plate (7)
4 Motionless (5)
5 Designed to aid memory (8)
6 Start a round of golf (3,3)
12 In Mexican cooking maize pancake with savoury filling (8)
14 Menacing (7)
16 German prisoner of war camp (6)
18 Withdraw formally from a membership of an organisation (6)
19 Unoriginal, trite (5)
21 Shove (4)

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Extinction threat to native bird species

A NEW report by wildlife experts has discovered that more than one in ten British birds are now facing extinction.

More than 50 leading wildlife and research organisations created the State of Nature 2016 report, which suggests that it's not too late to save these species – but that action must be taken now.

Following on from the ground-breaking State of Nature report in 2013, leading professionals have pooled expertise and knowledge to present the clearest picture to date of the status of our native species across land and sea.

The report reveals that 56% of UK species studied have declined since 1970, while more than one in ten (1,199 species) of the nearly 8000 species assessed in the UK are under threat of disappearing from our shores altogether.

The report found that farmland birds have halved since 1970, and butterflies have declined by more than by 40% since 1976, while the number of bats has increased by almost 25% since 1999.

As the UK government and devolved administrations move forward in the light of the EU Referendum result, the report suggests that this could be an opportunity to secure world-leading protection for our species and the restoration of nature.

Hen harriers are close to extinction due to illegal killings

Anne Selby, chief executive officer of the The Wildlife Trust of Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, said: "The report defines the challenge we face, if we are to turn around the serious losses we face in the natural world. It's a call to arms to our members and local communities to make a difference."

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NATIONAL EYE HEALTH WEEK

MONDAY 19 – SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2016

YOUR VISION MATTERS

The seventh annual National Eye Health Week (NEHW) will take place 19 – 25 September 2016

Once again, eye care charities, organisations and health professionals from across the UK are joining together to promote the importance of eye health, and the need for regular sight tests for all.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

RNIB Specsavers

Transforming eye health

SPECSAVERS is backing National Eye Health Week by urging people to have regular eye tests to help maintain and protect their sight.

Recent research for Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People, suggests nearly 14 million people in the UK are not having their eyes tested every two years as recommended by optometrists. Some 30% claimed it was because they think there is nothing wrong with their eyes, while 29% said they just don't have the time.

Specsavers recently announced a new partnership with Royal National Institute of Blind People to support its vital work. The relationship includes a significant multi-media investment to help educate people about eye health and to raise awareness of how regular eye tests can help reduce preventable sight loss.

Dr Nigel Best, Specsavers' clinical spokesperson, said: 'We're reaching out to the people of the UK to encourage them to take better care of their own and their family's sight.

'A routine eye test not only helps detect any problems with your vision, it can also check for more general health problems and a wide range of conditions that can lead to sight loss if not treated in time. Early detection and timely intervention is critical to managing any eye health condition.'

At present there are more than two million people in the UK living with sight loss, which has a significant impact on their daily lives.

Dr Best added: 'Incredibly nearly half of sight loss cases are preventable, regular eye tests could pick up the warning signs before it's too late.'

The advice to have regular eye tests also applies to people with existing prescriptions who don't think their vision has changed. The research revealed that many spectacle and contact lens wearers ignore warnings that wearing the wrong prescription could cause symptoms such as headaches and dizziness.

Dr Best said: 'People should have their eyes tested every two years or more frequently if recommended. Opticians prescribe glasses or contact lenses based upon precise testing at a given time so if that information is not regularly checked and updated there can be severe consequences. Spectacle wearers could experience unnecessary discomfort while contact lens wearers could risk damaging their eyes.'

The research also revealed parents across the country are putting off taking their children to the optician with a surprising 27% of parents with children aged 3 to 16 can't recall taking, or have never taken their child for an eye test.

As part of National Eye Health Week Specsavers stores up and down the UK are raising vital funds for RNIB to allow them to deliver much needed support for people affected by vision loss.

Sally Harvey, acting chief executive of RNIB, says: 'More than two million people in the UK are living with sight loss that has a significant impact on their daily lives. However, of those two million, more than a third of people would notice a huge improvement in their vision simply by wearing the correct prescription glasses or contact lenses. We would encourage anyone who has put off going for an eye test to book one at the earliest opportunity."

Specsavers recently launched a children's vision screening campaign making screening software available free of charge to all schools in the UK. The equipment – SchoolScreener EZ - is unique in being suitable for screening the vision of children aged four to 16 and includes a colour vision test. Designed to be simply operated by teachers or classroom assistants, the screener can be used in 35 different languages. Schools can register to receive their free kit at screeningforschools.com

IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE CAN SEE THROUGH YOUR EYES

An eye test can help keep your eyes healthy and detect a range of health conditions. 13.8 million people don't have one regularly. Book yours today.

To book a discounted eye test visit specsavers.co.uk

RNIB Specsavers

Transforming eye health

Source: YouGov plc online omnibus survey of 10,000 people, July 2016. A regular test is at least once every two years. To check discounted eye test vouchers on offer and full terms and conditions visit specsavers.co.uk/stores ©2016 Specsavers. All rights reserved.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Eyesight may often be taken for granted but, with 86% of people in the UK valuing their eyesight above any other sense, it is important to make sure that we protect and preserve our sight to maintain normal daily activities such as driving and reading. The ageing population and unhealthy lifestyles are fueling a steep decline in our vision, yet according to research conducted by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) half of all sight loss is avoidable.

Mrs Hilary Phillips, Consultant Ophthalmologist, for iSIGHT Clinic, Southport, an independent Eye Hospital, advises on the importance of regular eye checks at a local optician, and explains some of the most common eye diseases along with the symptoms you should be looking out for.

Mrs Phillips states “It is vitally important that everyone visits their local optician every 12-18 months. Opticians are not just prescribers of glasses. They are proficient in treating conditions such as dry eyes and they also have the facilities to screen for Glaucoma, Cataract, Age Related Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy, some of which have no warning signs. Immediate family members of patients suffering with Glaucoma, over the age of 40, should be screened for Glaucoma once a year as they have a 10% higher risk of developing Glaucoma than the average person with no family history of Glaucoma. Your Optician will be experienced at checking eye pressures, looking for optic nerve damage and carrying out tests to look at the peripheral vision (visual fields).

There are simple steps you can take to help maintain good eye health such as; regular eye tests, keeping your eyes covered in the sun, protecting your eyes with safety goggles, that are sealed around the eye area during DIY, and ensuring that you lead a healthy lifestyle. Eating a healthy diet and watching your weight can help to avoid diabetes, a disease that affects all the organs and the eye is no exception. Diabetic Retinopathy checks should be carried out annually, in all diabetics, as early disease can be treated. Good blood sugar control is beneficial in diabetic patients to reduce the risk of diabetic retinopathy. It is important if you have Diabetic Retinopathy that you visit your optician or local eye department every year as studies have proven that this preserves vision longer than untreated patients. Smoking is known to worsen and progress ARMD (Age-Related Macular Disease), however on cessation of smoking many patients find that their vision improves. Good blood pressure control and control of high cholesterol is beneficial to the whole body however in the eye it reduces the risks of diabetic retinopathy, retinal vein and artery occlusions, which can cause a loss of vision.

1.8 million people in the UK are living with sight loss. For 53% of these, a simple sight test and new spectacles could really help. If you have any concerns about your vision or are experiencing any flashes or floaters, do not hesitate in visiting your local optician.

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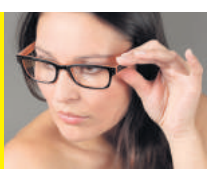

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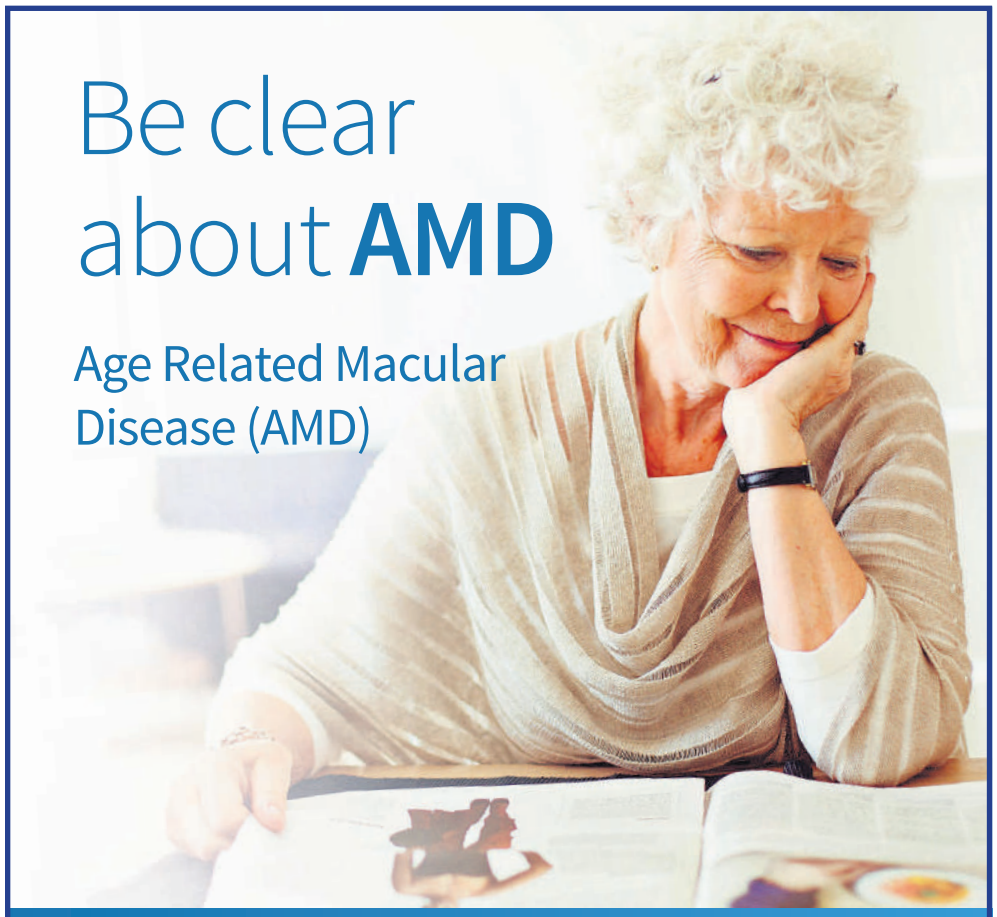
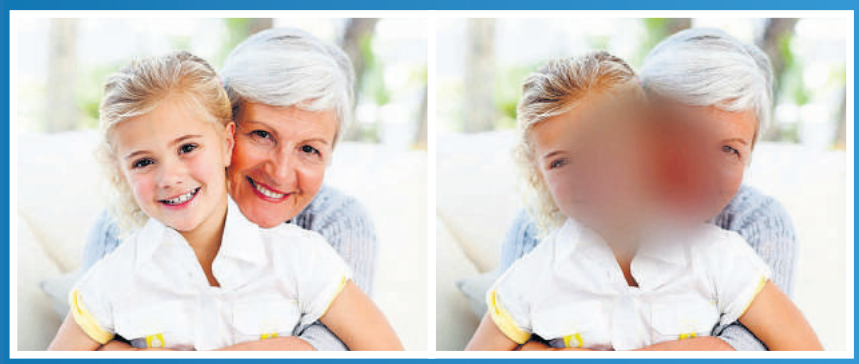


How do you know if you have AMD?

Symptoms vary from person to person, but usually the first problems people notice are:-

- **Problems reading small print, even with your usual reading glasses**
- **The ability to see detail**
- **A slight smudge in your sight or your vision has a small blurred area in the centre**
- **Straight lines may look distorted or wavy**

The effects of AMD on your eyesight



Normal vision AMD vision

AMD diagnosis and treatment is available at iSIGHT Clinic through the NHS

- **iSIGHT Southport** is the only clinic offering AMD treatment in Sefton & West Lancashire
- Consultant led service
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Chance for budding songwriters to showcase their talent

ENTRIES are now being taken for a Lancashire-based songwriting competition.

The Last Choir Singing Choir Competition, which was launched in 2014 is open to Lancashire junior schools and gives children the opportunity to showcase their skills in a supportive and fun environment.

The competition was won this year by Tarleton Community Primary School's 55-strong choir.

As part of the 2016 competition, organisers added the additional element of a songwriting contest last year and this was a huge success, drawing in songwriters from every corner of the UK.

Now organisers of the competition are looking for songwriters of all levels of experience to submit a song to the Last Choir Singing Songwriting Contest.

Entry is free and is open to both adults and children with a cash prize of £400 plus an acoustic recording by singer, Duncan Heather, and guitarist, Drew Palmer, put on iTunes, with all proceeds going to the songwriter.

Welcome addition

Project manager, Anita Shaw, said: "The songwriting contest is a welcome additional element to the competition and is a great way to inspire and help budding songwriters."

Shortlisted applicants will have an acoustic version of their song performed live on Radio Lancashire by international vocalist, Duncan Heather on Thursday, November 24. The songs will then be put to public vote with the winner being announced live on the radio on Friday, December 2

Last year's songwriting winner Ike Rann record his winning song 'Genius' in its original form and as a dance track. He was invited to join the judging panel at the Last Choir Singing 2016 final and heard 10 different versions of his song performed by the region's finalists.

To enter the songwriting contest, visit lastchoirsinging.co.uk/songcontest.

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Dial a Ride to run service to music venue

DOUGLAS Music, Parbold, is starting a 'Ticket and Ride' scheme for audiences to its international Saturday concerts in Lancashire's Parbold Village Hall Arena Auditorium.

Douglas Music has partnered with West Lancashire's Dial a Ride to offer a subsidised mini-bus service to and from its concerts.

The scheme will run as a trial throughout the 2016-17 season. Douglas Music's 'Ticket and Ride' scheme is the response to personal accounts from members of the audience who would love to come to the events but who cannot use public transport or for whom it is not available at the time of the concerts and do not have regular use of a car. 'Dial a Ride' minibuses are fully equipped with wheelchair and other accessibility features. The service will cover Parbold, Appley Bridge, Wrightington, Mawdesley, Rufford, Burscough, Lathom, Skelmersdale and the north of Ormskirk.

The cost of a return journey from pick-up point to the Parbold concerts and back will be in addition to the cost of the ticket. To book Ticket and Ride, first book your concert ticket at Douglas Music's Box Office [Tel: 01257 498452 or Email: tickets@parbolddouglasmusic.org or via the website: www.parbolddouglasmuisic.org. Ticket holders should then contact Dial a Ride [Tel: 01704 893373 between 9am, and 2pm weekdays or leave a message] to reserve their seat on the bus and to make the pick up and drop-off arrangements.

The scheme is subsidised by the Arts Council in support of Douglas Music's community policy of bringing the best of all kinds of music to audiences outside the metropolitan areas.

The first concert is on Saturday September 24 at 7.45pm, and features the Australian born guitarist, Craig Ogden. A household name to listeners of Classic FM and Radio 3, for this concert, he teams up with his opera-star wife, Claire Bradshaw in a popular programme blending favourite classical works by Franz Schubert and Joaquin Rodrigo with some of the standards of Jerome Kern and George Gershwin.

Douglas Music's future artists include the favourite concert pianist Noriko Ogawa, Wingates Band in a 'Disney Brass Extravaganza' for all the family, Spain's No. 1 pianist Javier Perianes, and for a traditional Christmas concert Prince Bishop's Brass Ensemble.

Full details of the concerts are available on line or by requesting a brochure.

Players announce season of concerts for autumn

THE Hoghton Players, Southport's renowned Gilbert and Sullivan Society have announced their forthcoming season of concerts for autumn 2016.

The concerts will feature two related works "Cox and Box" and early collaboration between Sir Arthur Sullivan and librettist FC Burnand and the ever popular HMS Pinafore a later collaboration between Sullivan and WS Gilbert.

The Concert Dates and venues are as follows:

- Friday, October 7 – Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton

- Saturday, October 8 – Ainsdale Village Church Hall

- Friday, October 14 – To Be Announced

- Saturday, October 15 – Holy Trinity Church Hall Southport

All concerts will start at 7.30pm.

Refreshments will be available at all concerts.

Advance tickets are available from The Hoghton Player's ticketing secretary - Ray Dutton 01704 578232.

Smash hit musical returns home

THE smash hit musical Blood Brothers opened at the Liverpool Empire this week and will run at the theatre until October 1.

Lyn Paul, is no stranger to Blood Brothers, and described as 'The definitive Mrs Johnstone' returns to the iconic role.

She played Mrs Johnstone in the final West End performances at the Phoenix Theatre in 2012.

Hailed as one of the best musicals of all time, Blood Brothers, written by award-winning playwright Willy Russell, has triumphed across the globe. Paul often comes across fans who have been moved by the show and she said: "I got a letter once from a woman who had a son who was in jail, and she said she sat watching it and it was the only time she'd ever seen anybody portray on stage a jail sequence that is exactly as it is."

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Beer Fest is back!

THE second annual three day Ormskirk Beer, Food and Wine Festival will be held from Friday September 23 – Sunday September 25.

The community event is run in conjunction with Ormskirk Cricket Club on Altys Lane with the idea of showcasing the best of what Ormskirk and the surrounding towns have to offer, with 18 local business and community groups on board. Entry is free for all under-18s.

It runs from 5pm on the Friday night; from 11am-10pm on the Saturday and 11am-7pm on Sunday at the Cricket Club. A food market will be open from 11am-7pm on the Saturday and Sunday. There will be wine, gin and beer bars, offering 60 hand pulled real ales, live music from local artists all weekend and the Sunday will feature family-friendly activities including bouncy castles, children's games and activities. The majority of the event is under cover, so will not be affected by bad weather.

A spokesperson for the event said: "It was a huge success last year and we hope with more businesses involved, we can go even bigger and better this year, making the event a real date for the diary!"

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NEW CLASS STARTING Wednesday 5th October

Gentle, easy line dance routines

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Dancing is good for you.

It helps to keep you fit and active. You'll have great fun and make new friends

Join the lines

Shy Boots and Stompers at St John's Ambulance Hall Wright Street, Southport Each Wednesday £3.50 for more information

01704 392352

Class Structure

7-8pm Beginners and reviews

8-9pm Improvers and reviews

9-10pm Intermediate and requests

Informal - relaxed instruction

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

THE VENUE ROYAL LIVER BUILDING

FREE ENTRY

WEDDING SHOW

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THE VENUE AT THE ROYAL LIVER BUILDING

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WEEKLY EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC in the bar on the last Friday of every month

PUB QUIZ
Challenge yourself with our weekly Pub quiz every Monday night 9pm till 10.30pm
Entry is free and there are some fantastic prizes to be won.

FISH AND CHIP FRIDAYS
Join us every Friday at The Cricketers for Fish and Chips. Lager Battered Fresh Haddock, Mushy Peas and Homemade Tartar Sauce for only £7.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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WINE COURTESY OF HOLBORN WINES

PAY ON THE DAY
Tickets £3 Under 18's go free
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Entertainments

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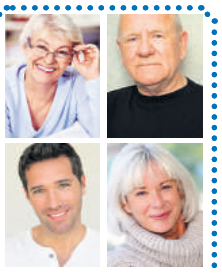

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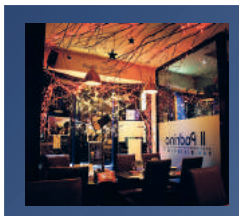
DINING OUT



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FALCON HYBRID Targa 21" chrome alloy frame 15 speed 26" wheels V brakes. Good all round condition. £60 Birkdale area. 07818407608

CHILD SEAT Child seat for bike £20 07472990212

CLOTHING

DANCE SHOES ladies, size 4/5 nearly new condition £15.00 01704876752

AUTUMN COMING! Mint Velvet Gilet Faux Fur £30.Waxed finish gilet with fur trimmed hood £30. Size 10.Immaculate Rufford 01704 821720 or 07966101288

LADIES COAT Jaques Vert, double breasted, camel, detachable fur collar, fit large 14/16, perfect condition £50. 01704 231801

LADIES DARK grey short jacket with small fur collar size 16 excellent condition may deliver £10 ono 01515263851

LADIES NEXT short length beige jacket size 12 v.g.c. may deliver £9 ono 01515263851

NEXT SUIT navy 30" waist, jacket used once for christening 29" leg. Cost £135. Accept £30 07983 070753

LADIES SOUL CAL black canvas white lace footwear size 5.5 worn once as new original price £36 accept £12 may deliver 01515263851

LADIES TOPS mixed, good makes, as new £25 07866626967

WATERPROOF COAT Gents, paddy lined, not been work with hood, size L. Bargain £20. No texts 07866626967

LEATHER COAT medium, modern £20 ono. Grey large sheepskin mink £30. Can deliver local. Long full length leather skirt £50 01704 884564

GENTS SUIT Brand new gents suit which still has labels on bought from Next, 36 inch waste, regular leg, jacket 40 regular, charcoal grey in colour, genuine reason for sale, Aintree. £69.00 07434841029

CLOTHING

DESIGNER WEDDING DRESS Alyce Paris Claudine fishtail ivory stunning dress sz 6-8 £1,300 now £450 with dress bag dry cleaned no txt 07913717333

LADIES LEATHER BOOTS Pavers make modern style brown leather knee length sz 4.1/2 boxed cost £135 now £45 no txt 07913717333

LAURA ASHLEY HANDBAG Brand new price mark labeled £79 great for gift £29 first to see will buy no txt 07913717333

LADIES M&S COAT Brand new price label £90 grey wool mix fur collar size 14 no txt £35 07913717333

LADIES GREY COAT Brand new modern coat sz 12 grey wool cashmere mix tie belt £24 no txt 07913717333

NINE WEST HANDBAGS 2 modern brand new with labels great for gift £10 each bargain no text 07913717333

MANS RUSSIAN HAT Brand new genuine make size Med Large black leather with badge emblem great for gift bargain £25 no txt 07913717333

COMPUTING

WINDOWS10 PC AMD R7 200 Graphics Card, 8GB RAM, AMDFX4350 Quad Processor, 1TB HDD, Wireless Keyboard/ Mouse, Wifi Card, Monitor (Slight Scratch) £200 01704211459

DICTAPHONE Philips 710 Transcription system dictaphone. £20 ovno 01704573196

IPHONE3GS UNLOCKED Unmarked screen, full working order, black, skech case, charger and cable £60 01704831977

ACER LAPTOP 15.6 screen, 1000gig HD 4 gig ram, 2 months old, superb. £170 07504888423

COMPUTER CHAIR In grey material, padded seat and back which is adjustable for height and recline. Very clean and good condition £20 01704 875299

DIY

DRILL STAND and Engineers Vice by Clarke Model CDS2 new in box £27 07858 462998

LADDER Long single ladder. 19 rungs. 15 feet long. £20.00 01704 546978

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ALLOY LADDERS good condition £15.00 Tel: 07539 449430

ROUTER black and decker, unwanted gift, as new 1100W motor £25ono. 01695 574138

MULTIPURPOSE LADDER aluminium, use as single or A shape cost £80 accept £25.00 Tel: 01704876752

COTSWOLD STONE approx 3 1/2 square yards, various sizes x 1" £25. 0151 526 4731

WORKMATE BENCH folding work bench from B + Q brand new and unopened in box,with twin wind up vices etc £15 01704 530137

BLACK & DECKER electric chainsaw with long lead, can be seen working £35 Southport 214498

DIY

OLD TOOLS Selection £15. Mitre box and saw £5. Cantilever tool box in red £10. Fishing basket £5. 01704560627

SHOWER MIXER VALVE Good quality chrome concealed mixer valve, with large shower head. In good condition, ideal for new or refurb bathroom. May not suit combo type boilers. Aintree £20 07434841029

HAMMERITE PAINT New unopened 750 ml tin smooth gold direct to rust metal paint quick drying. £10 01704 560150

5 FLUORESCENT TUBES 1200MM 5 new and unused tubes in original boxes. 1200mm (4Ft) 36 watt. £12.50 01704 560150

GARDENING

GARDEN SUITE 2 SEATER SOFA PLUS 2 CHAIRS WITH CUSHIONS RATTAN EFFECT CHARCOAL COLOUR ONLY 1 YEAR OLD EXCELLENT CONDITION. £90.00. 07977300826

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PRESSURE WASHER karcher K5, ex cond £150. 07944486990

QUALCAST MOWER rotary, good working order, free to collect. 01704 226442

EXOTIC HOUSEPLANT Anthurium 70cm tall x 90cm wide, continuous long lasting flowers, very healthy plant £35. 01704874189

TORTOISE Stone £10 01704 214017

HOBBIES

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RACING BICYCLE Tyres Acorn 2 brand new tyres 27 x 1.11/4 £18 07858 462998

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WANTED OLD TOYS cars, trains, soldiers etc. all conditions considered. Cash paid. 07900380051

PUB ASHTRAYS John Smith lager by Wade pottery, two at £5 each 0151 9281955

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KNITTING YARN Patons navy DK wool. 325 grams unknitted balls. Plus 400 grams cream DK knitted. Rufford. £5 01704 821604

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VINTAGE LIESGANG 8mm film projector, working condition but lamp missing. With carry case and spool reel. Inspection welcome £20 ono 01704574525

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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CURTAINS 90X72 from Next. Jade fully lined. Excellent condition. £20 0151 9321725

BRAND NEW Blomberg freezer White Free Standing 85cm X 54.5cm 3 drawer. Unwanted gift cost £250 sell for £150 07764 237643

ANTIQUE MIRROR Gold edged 32 " X 19 " £25 07764 237643

COFFEE TABLE Oval light mahogany, solidly built L 43" x W 26". Patterned top £40 07764237643

WALL MIRROR 2'3" x 10" 320. Natwest pigs £10 each. 01695576252

KITCHEN 4-LIGHT chrome and black vgc £15. 01695 574644

NAO ORNAMENTS 5 in all £100. 2 new upvc windows, woodgrain brown 159x94cms & 122x94cms £20 each. 01695574644

KITCHEN PLAQUE lovely pear design, 6" for your, very modern £6 0151 928 7583

SHOWER CURTAIN white, mosaic design, as new, very modern £9. 0151 928 7583

INTERIOR DOORS 5 x 6 panels, chrome knobs vgc £25. Brown leatherette sleigh bed, good cold £35. 0151 527 1013

17 TRAYS decorated with fruit, suit party £10.00 Bathroom cabinet £5.00 Tile cutter £20.00 Work bench £15.00 Drain rods £7.00 Tel: 07564272881

BEDROOM CARPET oval pink 5 x 3, as new, any offers. 01704893569

DYSON upright vacuum, good cond £35. 01695 733872

ASDA CYCLONIC vacuum, upright, good condition £25.00 01695733872

FREE CARPET for hall, stairs, and landing, free to good home. 01695 723100

COMBINATION MICROWAVE samsung, 2 plate racks, revolving plate, in good working order, buyer collects £15.00 01704536608

CURTAINS lovely modern stripe, ringlets, purple/lime/green lined as new, 80"w x 85"d, 56"w x 85"d £25 pair 01704 821597

PARKER KNOLL small chair, no arms like new, pale green £30ono. cream-lined curtains, tie backs, ex cond £10. 01704821597

SOFA BED Ikea 2 seat, turquoise cover, vgc £120ono 01695574138

DIPLOMAT GAS-HOB stainless steel, 6 burners, brand new, still in box £100ono. 01704 565666

FILING CABINET 2 drawer, grey £15ono. panasonic colour TV`s stations, ex working order £50ono. 0151 526 2889

INDESIT washing machine and beck fridge freezer hardly used £120. modern able bed headboard grey, never used £10. 07508 022203

CANE CONSERVATORY suite, honey colour, ex cond, e seat couch, 2 armchairs, brand new covers blue £90. 0151 474 4261

CREAM CURTAINS lined, tie backs, 54" drop x 60" wide, ex cond. cream double quilt cover, 2 p/cases £10. maroon satin double quilt cover and p/cases £10. 01704 821597

BED SETTEE multiyork, part duck down, good cond buyer collects £170. 07980 950275

AMERICAN FRIDGE/FREEZER Samsung, not working, ideal for spares, buyer collects £50. 07980 950275

KITCHEN UNITS good cond, wood but can be painted. carousel and pull out larder, buyer dismantles & collects £200 07980950275

FOOD PROCESSOR argos model XB9018 unused from new £25. 0151 928 1628

WINE COOLER cookworks, holds 12 bottles H17" x W14" x D20" £25. 01704 231801

DROPLEAF TABLE wooden oval and 4 chairs £10. 07522 432988

KINGSIZE HEADBOARD brand new, black metal £25ono 01695 733281

KENWOOD CHEF Food mixer model KM 300,all white colour 700w newish model with beater,whisk and dough hook,liquidiser and chopper/coffee grinder,as new £60 01704 530137

DECLAN CABIN-BED flat packed, new, H42 W96 L195 (cms) £45, buyer collects. 07847 911088

LUXURY SOFAS 3 seater and 2 seater, ivory gold, must be seen £1800. 07801 177330

DINING TABLE solid beech pedestal round, 4 spindle back chairs (modern) will extend to seat 6 £95. 01704 461042

BECO FRIDGE integrated and baumatic freezer as new £100 for both. 07533 152092

DINING ROOM Oval Extending Dining Room Table Mahogany Finish with 4 Chairs & 2 Carvers £100.00 ono 07795 332604

OFFICE DESK Including Chair, Light Oak Finish 6Feet Long x 2Feet 8 Inches Wide, 3No Draws Either Side, Buyer to Collect £70.00 07795 332604

OIL PAINTINGS Pair of framed landscapes by Crosby artist Richard Sumner, 18" x 22" each. £30 the pair 0151 9281955

CABIN BED Bensons 'X Bunk' single bed. Includes mattress, has desk underneath. Perfect condition. Dismantled on collection (instructions included!) £150 07788 230869

WHITE WOODEN top opening chest for laundry /storage. Detachable fabric lining. John Lewis 36x55x52h. Excellent condition. Rufford 01704 821720 or 07966101288

BEDSIDE CABINET Solid very light coloured wood,one deep drawer for storage.Low to match modern bed 60x24x36h. John Lewis. Rufford.01704 821420 or 07966101288

LEATHER SOFAS 2x2 seater cream leather sofas by dfs good condition except one has a few marks on seat hardly noticiable 295ovno 07960231352 after-3pm

LARDER FRIDGE Undercounter white Beko larder fridge with salad crisper. Good clean condition and good working order. Size W 54 x H 84 x D 57 cm approx. £50. May deliver 01704 560150

LIGHTS Two 3-light ceiling pendants with ceiling rose and hook. Two 2-light wall lights. In matching cream wood. VGC. £40. (Formby) 01704 877594

IRON MINCER Vintage table top portable cast iron meat mincer. Screws onto table edge. Good condition. Tough and heavy. Rufford. £8. 01704 821604

WHITISH TUREENS Vintage lidded. Plus server plate and gravy boat. Creamware 9" x 3" deep. Plate 12" x 9½". VGC. Rufford. Can deliver. £10 01704 821604

PYREX GLASSES In red melamine cup holders. 2 tall red and 1 small magenta. 1960s VGC. Rufford. £5 01704 821604

TRIFLE BOWLS. 6 Vintage pressed-glass trifle servers. Four Art-Deco. Two 1970s Arcoroc. Good to VGC. Plus 12 small glass bowls £12 01704 821604

CHINA TEA SET Argyle bone china 18 piece Plus jug, bowl, biscuits plate. Gold edged. Pastel flowers. VGC. Rufford. Can deliver £15 01704 821604

PERFECT CONDITION Two cream leather effect high back bar stools with foot rests, chrome plated legs, hardly been used like new £45 0151 5268421

COFFEE MACHINE Delonghi Coffee Machine. Barista style. Like new hardly used. Bargain £30 ovno 01704573196

CABINET CAROUSEL Corner cabinet carousel corner unit. In excellent condition. £60 ovno 01704573196

SOFA Large 2/3 seater in light brown fabric. Good condition. Buyer to collect. £45 07783 957954

DINING ROOM Dark Oak extending oval table with 6 chairs (2 carvers). Can deliver. £70 ovno 01704573196

BAGLESS UPRIGHT dyson dc07 with tools, very strong suction, can deliver £45 Southport 214498

MICROWAVE/GRILL Sharp microwave/grill good condition £20 01704213935

FRIDGE/FREEZER Zanussi fridge/freezer £10 01704213935

TV/STANDS Old TV's plus stands offers 01704213935

BLUE SUITE 3 seater suite and chair Blue £10 01704213935

FLORAL TEAPOT antique black £25 ono. Electric orbital sander £10. 551141 Hoover upright cleaner £40. 01704 551141

DELONGHI MICROWAVE 800 watt, good condition, only one year old, hardly used £40. 07738034895

DINING TABLE Extending, oval, teak, 4 chairs, 2 carvers, good condition plus table protector, felt £60 ono. 0151 467 3017 or 0775 4408582

SINGLE BED portable folding with full mattress on wheels with cover £45 01704 538452

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WOODEN CRADLE Never used £25. Bargain cost £95. Dolls house £10 07983 070753

DRESSING TABLES light wood, cost £250. Accept £70 for both. Bargain 07983 070753

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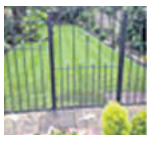

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Nutriculture UK Ltd is an established manufacturing and distribution company based in Skelmersdale, with offices in Barnsley, Bristol and Birmingham. An opportunity has arisen for an IT Support Engineer to join the IT Department. Offered at a salary of between £18k and £20k, depending on experience, and Reporting to the IT Director, the role will involve:

- Taking and logging IT support queries from users at all of our sites, which will include both software and hardware
- Troubleshooting and resolving issues both in person and remotely
- Daily administration of backup routines and network monitoring
- Equipment additions, moves and decommissions, including maintenance of the asset database and equipment audits
- Adding users to Active Directory, Exchange, Dynamics NAV and other internal systems

In order to be successful in this role, you will be expected to have the following skills and experience:
- MS Windows 7 onwards (installation and administration)
- MS Office 2013 onward (installation and use)
- Active Directory (management)
- MS Exchange (management)
- Switches, Firewalls and VPNs
- Wireless infrastructure
- Desktop and workgroup printers

Knowledge of the following will also be beneficial, but not essential:
- Experience with MS Dynamics NAV
- Experience with VoIP telephony
- Knowledge of MS SQL Server

Although the role will be 9am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday and based at our head office in Skelmersdale, there will be occasional need to travel to our other sites in Barnsley, Birmingham and Bristol, plus our home workers throughout the UK and any other sites that should be acquired by the business. There will also be the occasional requirement to work outside of normal office hours both remotely and onsite, mainly to assist with project work or to respond to a systems failure. Your flexibility will be required in this respect.

In addition to your salary, the company offers several bonus schemes linked to company performance and enrolment into the Employee Benefit Trust, which you will become eligible for based on how long you have been in our employment.

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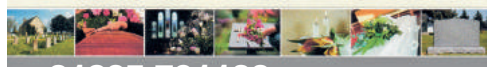

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BIRTHDAYS

JOHN CARROLL

Happy 60th Birthday

Party at the Viking pub, Saturday 24th September. All family and friends welcome.

John, Bev & Family

xxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

DOYLE LORRAINE JANET
1972-2016

Fergie, Edna, Pat, Shannon and Alexa also Sisters Christine and Susan would like to thank all Family, Friends and Neighbours for prayers, cards and flowers at the sad loss of a Daughter and Mother. Also Father Kehoe for a beautiful requiem mass.

PRICE PETER

Mrs Sylvia Price and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, prayers, cards and donations received for Liverpool Road Methodist Church and The Dog Trust. Special thanks to Barbara Banton for her kind ministrations on the recent loss of Peter and to Margaret and Linda of Skelmersdale Funeral Service for their dignified funeral arrangements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SINCLAIR CHRISTINA

Christina's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their support during this sad time, thank you also to those who attended her funeral and kindly donated to Queenscourt Hospice in lieu of flowers. Our heartfelt thanks to all the Doctors and Nurses who cared for Christina so well over the years, and a special thank you to Father John Gaine and Deacon Paul Collins for their visits. Special thanks to Father Bernard Higham for his kind words of comfort and finally thank you to Derek Crawford at Howard's Funeral Directors for the kind and professional funeral arrangements.

WHITTLE JOSEPH

Joseph's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives and friends for their support during this sad time, thank you also to those who attended his funeral and kindly donated to The Alzheimer's Society in lieu of flowers. Our heartfelt thanks to Val and all the staff at Abbendon Nursing Home who cared for Joseph so well for the nine years he was there, the standard of care received was wonderful. Thank you to Rev. Martin Abrams for his kind words of comfort and finally thank you to Carl and Nicky Howard at Howard's Funeral Directors for all your help and support.

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IN MEMORIAM

HARRIS CATHERINE HELEN
24th September.

Much loved Mother and Nan, sadly missed and in our hearts every day. Muriel, Don, Graham, Paul, Rachael & Paul.
xxxxxx

BALL COLIN GEOFFREY
Who passed away 2 years ago 23rd September 2014

The moment that you died, our hearts were torn in two, one side filled with heartache, the other died with you. We often lie awake at night, when the world is fast asleep, and take a walk down memory lane, with tears upon our cheeks. Remembering you is easy, we do it everyday, but missing you is heartache, that never goes away. We hold you tightly within our heart and there you will remain.

Loved and remembered every day. Deborah, Jasmine and Elliot
xxxx

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DEATHS

TAYLOR JAMES ISAIAH
22/2/44-19/9/16

Beloved husand of Joyce, a much loved Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad, Brother and Uncle

Funeral to be held Tuesday 27th September at Southport Crematorium

Family flowers only Donations to Cancer Research. Enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, Ormskirk.

DEATHS

MATTHEWS THOMAS HOWARD
10th September 2016, suddenly at home, aged 80 years

Dearly loved Husband of Sheila. Most wonderful and loving Dad to Tracey and David, Julie and Gordon, Cathy and Christian, and devoted Grandad to all his eight grandchildren. Tom will be very sadly missed by all who knew him. The Funeral Service and Committal will take place at 10.45am on Thursday 22nd September 2016 at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, however donations would be gratefully received by the family for Rosemere Cancer Centre, Royal Preston Hospital. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

DEAN EVELYN ROSE
14th September 2016 Peacefully in hospital Aged 84 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Bob, loving mum of Adrian and dear Mother-in-law of Janet. "Much loved by everyone who knew her". Funeral service and interment at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Friday 30th September 2016 at 9.30am. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/ 720012

WILLIAMS ROBERT ARNOLD (BOB)
12th Sept 2016
Peacefully at home in Burscough aged 86.

Husband of Edna, Dad of Carol, Sue & Kate, Grandad of 7 and Great Grandad of 8. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough, 26th Sept 2016 at 10.45am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. All enquiries to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors Burscough 01704 897770

DEATHS

WHELAN VERONICA
September 6th 2016
Aged 88 years

Veronica will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Service at Thornton Crematorium on Thursday 29th September at 11:00am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Dogs Trust. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

SAVAGE EDWARD WILLIAM
11th September 2016
Passed away peacefully at Southport Hospital

Eddie will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 23rd September 2016 at 10.45am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Médecins Sans Frontieres. For further enquiries please contact Hunters Funeral Directors, 128b Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel 01695 572997

TOMLINSON CLAIRE LOUISE
13th September 2016
Aged 35 Years

Died after a short illness in the arms of her dedicated and loving parents John and Gill. Much loved Sister of Simone, loving Niece of Ruth, Len, Shirley, Dave, Ray and the late Nadine. Claire will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. *'She danced in to this world and she danced out of it'* Funeral Service to take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 23rd September at 1:20pm Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, London (to benefit the children of the school in Claire's memory). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

KEARLEY JOE
10/09/1940 - 15/09/2016
Suddenly after a short illness.

Husband of Rene, Dad to Maxine, Geoff, Stuart, Ian and Tony, Father in law to Bill and Amanda. Loving Brother, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral at St Helens Crematorium on 30th September at 12 noon. Enquiries to Fairprice Funerals, 0161 4270630.

JONES FREDRICK
27th August 2016,
aged 91 years of Banks

Husband of the late Edna. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium, today, Wednesday 21st September 2016 at 11.20am. Flowers and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Tele: 01704 891555.

SAUNDERS DAVID BRIAN (Stan)
14th September 2016

Passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, after a long battle against illness, aged 55. He will be sadly missed by his beloved Karen and his sons Ian and Anthony. Much loved by his devoted parents Margaret and Len, brothers and sisters Andrew, Christine and the late Carol and Ian. A loving Grandad to Evlyn and Hannah and treasured Uncle to Kevin, Adam, Ella, Mia, Michael and Emily, he will be mourned by all his relatives and his many friends. Funeral service will take place at St. John's the Evangelist R.C. Church, Burscough on Tuesday 27th September at 11.15 am followed by Cremation at West Lancashire Cemetery & Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only, by request please. Donations to Queenscourt Hospice will be gratefully received. All donations and enquiries to: Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough. L40 5TP Tel: 01704 891555

Public Notices

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS
16/09/16

£1000.....Mr&Mrs Boner, Thornton
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£100.....Mrs Wilson, Wavetree
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17249	268518

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0717/LBC Listed Building Consent - To remove old unused chimney down to roof level and retile as per existing roof at St Michael And All Angels Church, Lord Sefton Way, Great Altcar.

Application No: 2016/0848/FUL Replacement upvc windows to first floor on front elevation at 5 Summerwood Lane, Halsall.

Application No: 2016/0861/FUL Replacement windows to the western and southern elevations at 2 Top Locks, Wheat Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2016/0863/FUL Connect the building as one, creating passageway from the existing accommodation through to the existing garage space. Convert part of the ground floor garage into living accommodation to include a kitchen area. Convert the area above the garage into living accommodation to include an additional two bedrooms, bathroom and en-suite. Create single storey extension to connect the existing living accommodation with the proposed new layout. New extension to include siting room/dining room. New vehicular/ pedestrian access at 32A Parliament Street, UpHolland.

Application No: 2016/0864/FUL Replacement garage door and relocation of windows at rear. Door to replace 2 no. windows to front elevation (facing north), and 2 no. windows to replace door on side elevation (facing west). Erection of single storey conservatory to rear at 7 Bescar Brow Lane, Scarisbrick.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 21st September 2016
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT916

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

RMDKwikform Ltd of 8 Peel Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9PT is applying for a licence to use 8 Peel Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WN8 9PT as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

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IF only car dealerships could talk. I suppose if they did, the one I popped into the other day would be able to regale you with some brilliant anecdotes.

I was there for a 90th birthday party – and while it's entirely reasonable for any 90-year-old to be taking it easy over a glass of sherry this one was surrounded by nightclubs and scary three-wheeled sports cars with motorcycle engines (I should know, I've encountered both). Lifes Motors could've sloped off to a retirement home decades ago, yet it's still very much alive and kicking.

All of which makes this showroom on one of Southport's quieter streets the oldest Morgan dealership of the lot. Not just in the North West or even in Britain, but the whole world.

What's more, the 90th anniversary is only of it selling a certain brand of ash-framed sports car from Worcestershire; if you count its history of selling motorcycles, it's actually 93 years old.

It's hard to believe that the same dealership was operating at a time when televisions hadn't even been invented and most families' idea of motoring was a motorcycle and sidecar combination, as the Austin Seven would've been too newfangled and expensive.

In the nine decades since car showrooms have sprung up all over the North West, switched franchises a few times and then slowly sloped off the mortal coil; only the other week I was sad to see Formby Ford closing its doors for the last time, after decades of selling cars with blue ovals on their snouts and Austin Rover and BL products in the years before that.

Yet this one dealership just keeps going, powered by cars that to the untrained eye look exactly like the ones it was selling half a century ago.

That's the thing with Morgans. Whether yours was made in 1926, 1966 or 2016, it's a safe bet that it's exciting and prompts conversations with bystanders at whichever pub car park you take it too. I know plenty of people – particularly ones who work in or around cars – who hate Morgans, but the ones who appreciate them *really* love them for what they are.

I'm definitely one of the latter, and I smile whenever I hear the bass-heavy thump of a Plus 8 babbling past or see the wind-battered smile of someone clearly enjoying the elements in a Threewheeler.

I have no doubt it'll still be trading sports cars that look vaguely the same when the centenary comes around. It will probably still be doing it a very long time after we've been consigned to the scrapheap!

David is features editor of Classic Car Weekly.

Lifes Motors manager Dave Randall with colleagues Matty Jackson and Andy Chandler at the 90th birthday party last weekend

Dacia reveals three new model updates

DACIA has announced updates for three of its models.
The Sandero, Sandero Stepway and Logan MCV have all been given restyled front ends, interiors with more storage space and engines that have been tweaked to be kinder to the environment.
Go to www.dacia.co.uk to find out more.

Dacia has been updating three of its UK best-sellers

Tenth generation of the Civic to arrive

THE TENTH generation of Honda's Civic will arrive in showrooms across the North West, the Japanese manufacturer has confirmed.
Like its predecessors it's built in the UK at Swindon but it's now longer and wider, and uses smaller, turbocharged versions of the company's VTEC petrol engines.
For more information go to www.honda.co.uk

Ford reveals prices for five door 'city car'

FORD has announced final prices for the Ka – or the Ka+ as it's now officially known.
The 1.2-litre five-door 'city car' starts at £8,995, and while it's slightly shorter than the current Fiesta it's taller to free up more room inside.
It's available in black and white.

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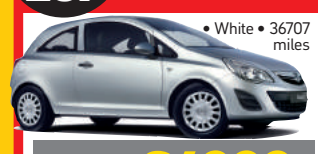

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APR Representative	12.2%

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13 REG FIAT 500 POP RHD, SILK VIOLET, 22000 MILES	£5999
62 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.7CDTI 16V ACTIVE EFX, CARBON FLASH, 60274 MILES	£5999
11 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.4I VVT 100PS EXCLUSIV, SILVER LAKE, 23863 MILES	£5999
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14 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR HAT 1.4T 120 BLACK EDITION S/S, CARBON FLASH, 12000 MILES	£7499
15 REG VAUXHALL ADAM HAT 1.2 70PS GLAM, GREY, 8253 MILES	£8999
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60 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR HAT 1.2 SE A/C, GREY, 40989 MILES	£4799
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11 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR HAT 1.4I 16V VVT XLIV 87PS, BLACK SAPPHIRE, 44939 MILES	£5499
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64 REG VAUXHALL ADAM HAT 1.2 70PS JAM, BLUE, 16368 MILES	£7299
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64 REG VAUXHALL ADAM HAT 1.2 70PS JAM URBAN PACK, RED, 24675 MILES	£7499
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64 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4I VVT 100PS EXCITE, DEEP SKY BLUE, 11003 MILES	£8499
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zoom-zoom

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda Range: Urban 30.4 (9.3) - 74.3 (3.8). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 88. 3 (3.2). Combined 40.9 (6.9) - 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions (g/km) 161 - 89.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to availability for vehicles registered between 01.07.16 and 30.09.16 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% APR Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all Mazda2 and Mazda3 models. ^£750 Mazda2 petrol models and £1,000 Mazda3 diesel modelsExcludes Sport Black. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Based on 9,000 miles per annum; excess mileage charge of 14.9p per mile applies. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Models shown: Mazda2 75ps SE, OTR from £12,195. Mazda3 120ps SE, OTR from £17,395. Models shown feature optional Soul Red Metallic paint (Mazda2 £660 and Mazda3 £670). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified.

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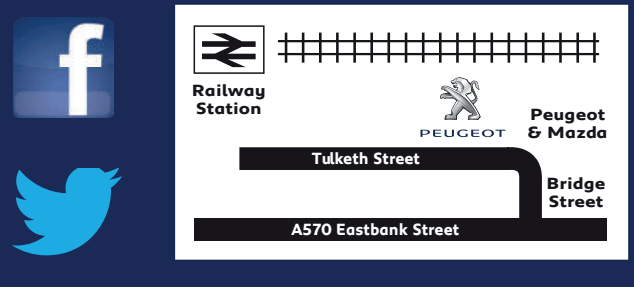

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Burscough end fine season with five wicket victory over Maghull

BURSCOUGH finished in fourth place in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition First Division after a five wicket home win over Maghull who were relegated to the Second Division.

The visitors were bowled out for 149 and Burscough then reached 150-5 to wrap up a maximum point victory.

Ainsdale were crowned First Division champions despite losing by 80 runs at Prestatyn.

The hosts declared on 190-5 with Ryan Westwell (65) top scoring.

In reply Sam Lucas hit 28 as Ainsdale were dismissed for 110, w ith Sampath Perera 5-37 and Kieron New 4-53 doing the damage with the ball.

Southport & Birkdale secured runners up and promotion after a tightly fought one wicket home win over Newton le Willows.

The visitors chose to bat and were dismissed for 148 with Cameron Smith (64) top scoring, whilst Andy Warhurst shone with the ball as he took 6-29. In reply Guy Edwards (25), Nick Knight (31) and Adam Galley (33) all added vital runs before skipper Chris Firth (8*) and Warhurst (4*) led S&B to victory on 149-9.

Fleetwood Hesketh slipped to seventh place in the table after a five wicket home defeat by Sefton Park.

Meanwhile Skelmersdale are going up from the Second Division after claiming the top spot despite an eight wicket defeat at Wavertree after they were dismissed for 154.

They ended a full 134 runs clear of second placed Hightown St Mary's

Ormskirk finish third in Premier Division after Lavelle scores a century

ORMSKIRK finished in third place in the Premier Division of the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition after a 172 run victory at Birkenhead Park.

George Lavelle (100* inc 8x4 & 2x6) hit his maiden Premier Division century, Josh Bohannon made 87 and Mike Jones 34 as Ormskirk declared on 254-5

In reply Nick Caunce 5-26 and Tom Hartley 3-11 helped bowl out the hosts for 82.

Formby finished runners up after a 49 run victory at Wallasey, writes Glenn Wallworth.

Stephen Parry hit an unbeaten 56 and Dane Williams scored 52 as Formby were bowled out for 205, with Chris Bourne taking 6-58.

In reply, Parry weighed in with 6-46 and Gary Keedy took 3-30 as the hosts were dismissed for 156.

Northern finished in fourth place after losing at home by seven wickets to New Brighton

Justin Snow (43) top scored in the host's total of 177, with Ashraf Nawab taking 3-24.

In reply, Mark Rowland (50), Upal Fernando (45*) and Andrew Clarke (40*) eased the visitors to victory.

Bootle ended up in fifth place after a six wicket win at Colwyn Bay, Chris Stenhouse 5-23 and Chris Liptrot 3-54 did the damage with the ball as the hosts were bowled out for 112.

In reply, Danny Davies top scored with 45 for Bootle.

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New signings to add experience to team

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United manager Tommy Lawson has strengthened his squad this week with the addition of two new signings with two more expected before the weekend.

The club was also boosted this week by the good news that Tony Donaldson, a young player that Lawson nurtured within the club, has joined Doncaster Rovers on a two year professional contract.

All this was announced as Skelmersdale prepare for this Saturday's trip to Sutton Coldfield Town and their home encounter against Workington next Tuesday evening.

Tommy Lawson said one disappointing aspect of the last week or so is the postponements that have meant they will travel to the West Midlands on Saturday without a game for two weeks.

He said: "It isn't ideal, we have tried to organise a game this week to maintain the players match fitness but have not been able to but we will take advantage of the gap to have a series of full training sessions and to concentrate on one or two things that you are unable to do when you have a midweek match." The two definite signings for Skelmersdale are Paul Woolcott and Valtar Fernandes; both are former club players of the year and will bring a much needed wealth of experience to the team.

New signing Paul Woolcott. Picture by John Driscoll

Woolcott actually retired at the end of last season but reportedly he has missed the involvement of Evo-Stik League football and has been training at the Uretek Stadium for a few weeks, Fernandes was the club Player of the Year in season 2014/15 and is a popular character among the regular supporters, being well known for his marauding runs up the right-hand side of the field and for some telling crosses.

Speaking about Tony Donaldson, Tommy Lawson is clearly very pleased for the youngster; Tony has been with the club for three seasons now and has trained regularly with the first team for most of that time.

Over the last couple of years he has started to make a name for himself with a regular first team shirt.

Lawson said: "It was very obvious to us when he turned up to training as a fifteen year old that we had a talent on our hands and the players recognised too as he they soon christened him 'Kaka' after the skilful Brazilian player."

Talking about the two other signings that he has lined up Lawson said: "We have two players set up to come in on loan, but because of the postponements we have not yet activated the moves, we should be able to that that later in the week."

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Linnets knocked out of FA Cup by first time entrants Handsworth

Handsworth Parramore 2
Burscough 0

BURSCOUGH were knocked out of the FA Cup in the Second Qualifying Round after a disappointing loss away at Handsworth Parramore.

It was the first time in Parramore's history that the club were taking part in the Second Qualifying Round of the competition and they caused an upset against the Linnets.

Goals either side of half time was enough to see the home side through the next round and knock out Burscough.

Next up for the Linnets is a home tie in the league against Farsley Celtic this Saturday. Kick off 3pm.

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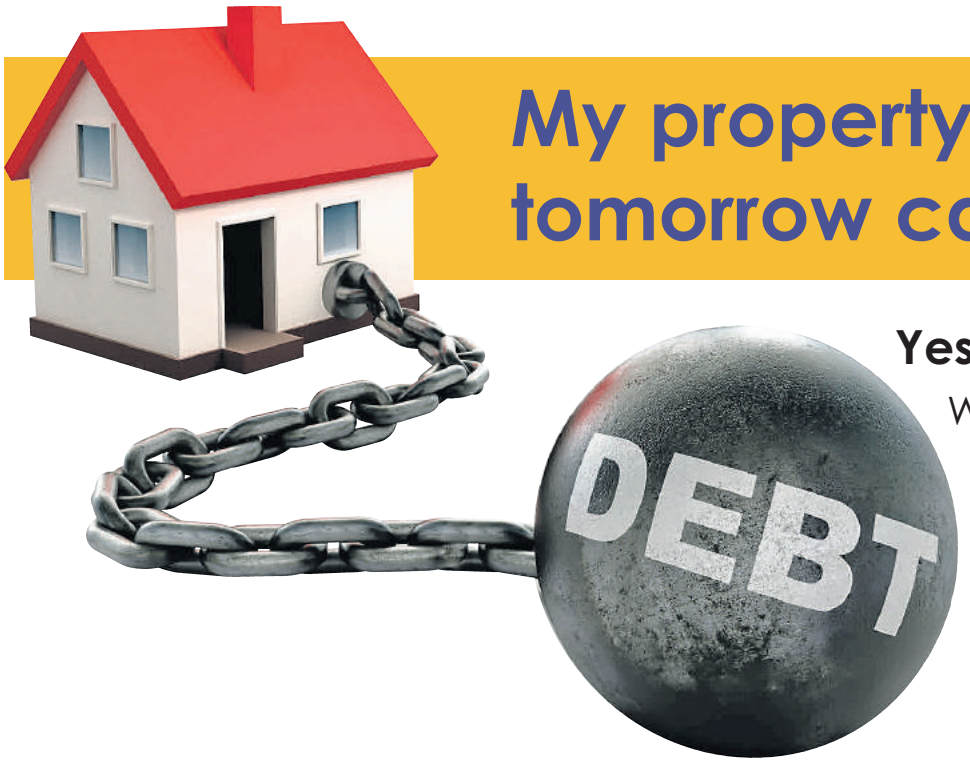

My property is due to be repossessed tomorrow can you help me?

Yes, but you must contact us immediately!

We have vast experience in working with the banks and building societies to stop repossessions. Repossessions happen for all kinds of reasons, we treat all transactions with the upmost confidentiality and professionalism, call now to see if we can help, it could save you ££££'s

Release the cash equity in your house by selling to A1 Property.

Unlike many of our competitors we have genuine cash funds. We are able to buy your house very quickly with the least amount of fuss. **Complete Confidentiality & Discretion Assured.**

We're a local, friendly, family based business built on honesty and trust. **Please call, we need your house.**

How do **A1 Properties** compare to other selling routes.

		Traditional Estate Agent		Auction House		Private Cash Buyer		A1 Property
Speed	✗	No timescales – sales typically many months or years. Many houses withdrawn from market as not sold.	✗	As and when auctions take place,only a coule of times a year. Long time to wait if it fails to sell.	✗	Often say cash buyer but then reliant on finance, or try to sell to third party, often results in long delays.	✓	We aim to complete in 4 weeks.
Costs	✗	Additional fees – withdrawal fees, marketing fees, upfront costs – some chargeable whether the property is sold or not.	✗	Entry fees and legal fees payable upfront, costs money even if fails to sell.	✗	Sometimes upfront fees or 'valuation fees'. Sometimes hidden charges or restrictive long term contracts.	✓	Free valuation. No upfront fee, no withdrawal fee. We pay all costs.
Pricing Strategy	✗	Often over promise on sale price to get you to instruct them, ahead of other local agents. Over valuing limits the interest in a property and is the main reason why properties fail to sell.	✗	Insist on low reserve prices to attract interest. You are committed to sell even if unhappy with sale price above reserve.	✗	Most offer 60% to 70% of market value. May pull out if a better opportunity is agreed elsewhere.	✓	Realistic 'offers over' pricing strategy creates maximum interest and makes your property stick out against competing properties
Buyers	✗	Not checked. Sent to view, even if they have a house to sell or have not got finance. This is to show 'progress' so you do not change agent.	✗	Buyers expect rock bottom prices. Large numbers of properties do not sell on the auction day. Buyers believe property was auctioned because of desperation / problem with property.	✗	Unregulated.	✓	You will be dealing with the decision maker, we can make you an offer within hours.
Support	✗	Tired, dated and ineffective approach. Do not work around modern busy lifestyles. Use the same lazy methods used as before the Credit Crunch. Reactive, not proactive.	✗	None.	✓	Often pay all legal fees and help to manage the solicitors progress.	✓	Highly trained staff. Modern methods, we can deal with banks and building society on your behalf. Proactive, not reactive.
Properties	✗	Generally only help sell the best houses in the most popular areas, everything else struggles to sell.	✗	Mostly investment, commercial and problem properties which would fail to sell with an agent.	✓	Can buy all types of properties in all areas, even problem properties.	✓	Any types even those in poor condition or have struggled to sell previously.

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Don't just take our word for it... here's what some of our many happy clients have to say about us...

A1 Properties recently bought my mother, Barbara's home, and they could not have been better. They gave my mother a fair price and handled everything from start to finish very efficiently.

Derek from Banksbarn

When A1 Properties bought my home in 2007 they were very quick and professional and paid what has turned out to be a very good price.

Alistair from Castlehey

Mr Bell of A1 Properties who recently bought my home helped me through what was a very trying time, he paid the price he promised for my house and was very helpful at all times.

Susan from Alderley

A1 Properties bought our house in 2005 and we rented it back, since then they have carried out refurbishments and modernisation and we could not be happier. They paid a very good price and with their help it was completely stress free.

John & Pat from Ferndale

Extract recently printed in a local paper.

Buy-to-let landlords sometimes get a bad press, so I would like to publically thank Colin Bell and his team from A1 Properties for all their assurances and help during their recent purchase of my home.

Colin agreed a price he would pay when he first came to see the house and kept his word to the penny. The sale whent through during the terrible time that the property and mortgage markets began to go haywire.

I was very worried that because other houses were reducing their prices at this time that Colin may come along and drop his price so it was brilliant the way he kept his promise and his cool over the many phone calls and texts I sent to him.

The sale took a bit longer than normal for him but the way things were in the mortgage market that was not surprising. So a big thank you Colin and team for all the reassurance and help and for being a man of your word. We love our new home of three weeks and are settling in very well.

Chelle Brown (address supplied)

WANTED

ANY CONDITION • ANY AREA

Property t

We also have quality properties available to let in:

- **Digmoor**
- **Birch Green**
- **Tanhouse**

and various other areas becoming available. All of our properties are refurbished to a high standard by our own maintenance team.

Call Now for our latest stock list.

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